

Hafa Adai!

Over food packs 260 handed out at MAHAL community pantry. PAGE 2
Holding on to federal funds is basically false—Benavente. PAGE 3

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THROUGH \$28.6B RESTAURANT REVITALIZATION FUND Restaurants, food trades may now apply for relief

By FERGIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Restaurants and other food businesses in the Marianas that have been badly hit by the COVID-19 pandemic will now be able to apply for direct relief through the \$28.6-billion Restaurant Revitalization Fund under the American Rescue Plan Act.

See RESTAURANTS on Page 4

Tinian son is named FAPAC awardee

Tinian-born Chief Petty Officer Richard Hofschneider of the U.S. Coast Guard has been named one of the recipients of the 2021 Federal Asian Pacific American Council awards.

Hofschneider has been on active duty since he graduated from high school in 2000 and is currently stationed in

Guam. He is also known to many as the leader of the local band Pacific Cool.

The son of the late Henry U. Hofschneider (Kunados Tinian) and Ana Maria B. Hofschneider, he is married to Marjorie Delacruz-Hofschneider and they have two children.

See TINIAN on Page 4

No mask mandate outdoors for fully vaccinated persons

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

In compliance with U.S. Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention guidance, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force have announced fully vaccinated

See FULLY on Page 4

DPL offers 40-year land lease to Hyatt

IN BRIEF

Under the draft agreement, Hyatt has to:

- Pay \$271,467 for annual base rent
- Pay \$250,000 for security deposit
- Pay \$500,000 for construction bond
- Show evidence certifying ability to procure \$1M liability insurance

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER



Concepcion-Teregeyo

The Department of Public Lands sent the owner of Hyatt Regency Saipan on Friday a draft agreement for a 40-year land lease based on their final negotiation on the hotel's lease, which is due to expire in December 2021.



Nishikawa

DPL Secretary Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo told Saipan Tribune yesterday that the lease hasn't been signed

See DPL on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 7pm, May 2, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	19,252
Fully Vaccinated:	16,487
Moderna	
Initiated:	3,148
Fully Vaccinated:	2,318
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	54

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	7,959	5	7,964
Recovered	7,739	0	7,739
Active	84	5	89
Deaths	136	0	136
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	154,000		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	164	4	168
Traced via Travel Screening	128	4	132
Traced via Community Screening	36	0	36
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	26,131*		
Days since last community transmission	46		

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor



DISASTER DRILL

Two firefighters carry an "injured plane crash survivor" from a "plane crash" site during the Commonwealth Ports Authority's full-scale Triennial Airport Disaster Drill at a demonstration site near the airport runway last Friday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Story on Page 2

INSIDE



LOCAL

The Kagman High School Class of 2006 holds a bake sale and garage sale for their reunion.

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BUSINESS

After a year of being closed, the Coco Restaurant in Garapan is back in business.

PAGE 12



LIFE & STYLE

Olympia Dukakis, the veteran stage and screen actor, has died. She was 89.

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Local

CPA holds full-scale Triennial Airport Disaster Drill

By JOSHUA SANTOS
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority conducted a full-scale Triennial Airport Disaster Drill last Friday morning at an open field near the airport runway, with a scenario involving a Boeing 737 airplane “crashing” on the runway of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

According to acting CPA public information officer Joe Hallahan, the scenario depicted multiple injuries and required the participation of the CPA Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting division, the CPA Ports Police, Department of Public Safety, the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, and medical staff from the Commonwealth Health Center.

Volunteers from the Public School System and the Junior

Reserve Officers’ Training Corps acted as injured crash survivors and were asked to behave accordingly in regards to the injury that was

assigned to them to ensure the simulation was as realistic as possible.

The drill is a requirement under the Federal Aviation

Administration’s regulations that requires each U.S. airport to conduct a full-scale drill every three years. Multiple government agencies, emergency

response departments, and student and civilian volunteers all participated in the disaster simulation.

At the time of meeting with

Hallahan, he and CPA were still in the process of gathering official response time numbers. The typical timing for a full-scale disaster exercise is two hours, and Hallahan expected a time of around or less than two hours.



Members and volunteers of the Marianas Advocates for Humanitarian Affairs Limited help distribute care packages at the walk-in and drive-through Saipan Community Pantry last weekend at the Kilili Pavilion. It was previously reported that around 250 care packages were to be distributed over the weekend— more than 260 packages were distributed on Saturday alone. JOSHUA SANTOS

Over 260 food packs handed out at MAHAL community pantry

By JOSHUA SANTOS
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REPORTER

The first ever Saipan Community Pantry initiative of the Marianas Advocates for Humanitarian Affairs Limited handed out over 260 packages last Saturday at the Kilili Pavilion in Susupe with some donations actually made at the site itself during the distribution.

With the help of large donations from various volunteers and colleagues, MAHAL was able to give more than what they initially expected to distribute. “We had some friends helping us, and there were some other groups that dropped by and gave some food items,” said MAHAL president Rene Reyes.

It was previously reported that around 250 care packages filled with non-perishable food items and bags of rice were to be distributed over the weekend, but the group was able to hand out more packages.

Additionally, Reyes briefly talked about how unexpectedly well-received his claim stub system was. For the community pantry, MAHAL requested that those interested in receiving a care package over the weekend had to register with them on Friday at the Kilili Pavilion. “When I was here at 7:30 [on Friday] there were people that said they were waiting since five in the morning,” said Reyes.

He promised to announce through the media when and where the next community pantries will be, as well as future announcements on when and where registration for claim stubs will open. “I’m very thankful to the community for their support, and we will still [try to] continue to do this in the following weeks, God willing,” he said.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

CHINA'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Holding on to federal funds is basically false—Benavente

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In response to allegations that the CNMI Department of Labor is holding on to federal funds, Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente said there are specific reasons why the notion of holding on to federal funds is “basically false.”

Speaking at a media briefing last Friday, Benavente said the territories are not allowed to execute advanced drawdowns for future disbursements and that every penny DOL ask for has to be justified followed by the

Pandemic Unemployment Compensation and the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation application.

“Let’s set this record straight. First of all, there are specific reasons why the notion of holding on to federal funds is basically false. ... Federal funds are placed in a federal government account [and] the territories are not allowed to draw down full amounts, unless proper justification is provided,” said Benavente.



Benavente

She made the clarification in response to a statement from Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), who said last April 25 that DOL has not released about half of the \$380.92 million that the federal government gave the CNMI to help those who lost their jobs because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Benavente said she has reached out to Sablan’s office and has been in communication with his office.

Benavente reported that

over 6,800 who are eligible for the PUA/FPUC and the Lost Wages Program assistance have already received payments.

The 6,800 individuals include 1,000 PUA/FPUC claimants and 5,800 who are eligible for PUA and LWA. For the first two weeks of April, a total of \$1.169 million were distributed to over 1,000 PUA/FPUC claimants and for LWA, a total of \$4.767 million to 5,800 LWA claimants.

Benavente says there have been more than 18,000 fraudulent claims that have been intercepted, which amounts to \$337 million.

KHS Class of 2006 holds a garage and bake sale

Members of the KHS Class of 2006, from left, Ken “DJ Big Ken” Camacho, Ricky Babauta, Felix Rabauliman, Momoko Halstead, Solly Takai, Ashley Reiko Pangelinan, and Carl Kaneshi pose for a photo at their class bake sale and garage sale at the Garapan Fishing Base last Saturday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The Kagman High School Class of 2006 held a bake sale and garage sale at the Garapan Fishing Base last Saturday, raising over \$600 for their five-year class reunion that is scheduled for Oct. 9.

The group sold chocolate chip cookies, brownies, clothes, and other goodies and pre-loved items. All baked goods were sold and leftover clothing was donated to the Ohala Foundation.

“We want everyone in our class to come and enjoy for free; the main thing is to get together,” said Ashley Reiko Pangelinan, owner of Pualani Crown and Free in Saipan and lead organizer for her class reunion party. Food, drinks, game prizes, and decorations are part of what the class is raising money for.

When asked why the class chose to make a donation to the Ohala Foundation in particular, Pangelinan said a good friend mentioned the organization to her. The Ohala Foundation is a Tinian-based nonprofit organization that provides food and clothing to those in need with plans to expand into Rota, Saipan, Guam, and the rest of Micronesia. The class mostly donated children’s clothing.

The KHS Class of 2006’s future plans include helping out in painting and cleaning KHS before the start of the next school year, doing more beach cleanups, and holding more fundraisers for future gatherings. (Joshua Santos)



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DPL

From Page 1

yet, but that DPL's offer to Hyatt is 40 years.

This comes soon after DPL and Saipan Portopia representatives held a final meeting last Thursday.

In a letter to Nick Nishikawa,

general manager of Saipan Portopia Hotel Corp., which does business as Hyatt Regency Saipan, Concepcion-Teregeyo asked him to review the draft agreement and indicate his acceptance so DPL can send him a final copy for his signature. Upon Nishikawa's acceptance, DPL will publicize the notice of "intent to lease" within 15 days in local newspapers and DPL's website.

She said any comments, suggestions, and other proposal submitted on or before the deadline will be reviewed for the approval of the lease. The secretary said DPL will forward the lease agreement to Attorney General Edward Manibusan for final review and approval. Following the AG's approval, pending administrative items will be due and required

for final processing.

The first item is Hyatt's payment of \$271,467 for the annual base rent based on 5% of the appraised market value for the first five-year period. Concepcion-Teregeyo said this fee is due upon signing of the agreement.

The second item is payment of \$250,000 for security deposit, which is due upon execution of the lease agreement and shall be maintained for the duration of the lease term.

The secretary said funds remaining on account with DPL after the completion of the proposed development in excess of \$250,000 shall be released to the lessee upon completion of the proposed development.

The third item is payment of a \$500,000 construction bond for additional security deposit for construction/renovation costs. Concepcion-Teregeyo said this fee represents 5% of the total cost of the proposed project to which the lease pertains. These funds, she said, will be held by DPL to secure construction start-up and remediation costs. The secretary said this amount can be drawn down to use during construction.

The final item is evidence certifying Hyatt's ability to procure liability

insurance with a minimum coverage of \$1 million, which must co-insure DPL and the CNMI government. Concepcion-Teregeyo said actual insurance policy will be due within 30 days of the lease start date.

Deveney Dela Cruz, special assistant to the DPL secretary, earlier stated that DPL received an official proposal packet from Hyatt's current lessee, Saipan Portopia Hotel Corp., last Oct 20, but the package was incomplete. Saipan Portopia subsequently submitted a complete proposal packet.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres had repeatedly stated that he would like to see Hyatt get the lease extension.

Hyatt's 40-year public land lease will expire in December 2021. The land lease of Fiesta Resort & Spa, which is adjacent to Hyatt, has already secured a 40-year lease before the expiration of its lease in June 2021.

The recent enactment of Public Law 20-84 increases the terms of public land leases for up to 40 years, plus an extension of 15 years, for a total of 55 years. It also authorizes certain public land leases to be amended and extend existing lease terms up to 55 years.

Wanted: Sanchez, considered armed and dangerous

The CNMI Department of Public Safety continues to seek the public's help in locating an individual pursuant to an arrest warrant.

Don Jr. Pangelinan Sanchez is wanted by authorities for the charges of receiving stolen property, (failure to complete) firearms owner identification requirement, removal of a firearm serial number, possession of a controlled substance, and trafficking of a controlled substance, with a cash bail set at \$100,000.

DPS has received several tips that Sanchez might be operating

or roaming in a Silver Rav4 (LP# AER-101) or a Charcoal Mazda 6 (LP#ADE-603). At this time, Sanchez is considered armed and dangerous.

If you or anyone you know has any information in regards to Sanchez, we advise you not to approach Sanchez but to call 911 immediately. If you wish to remain anonymous, call the CNMI Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. Crime Stoppers pays up to \$1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call. (PR)



RESTAURANTS

From Page 1

The U.S. Small Business Administration, which administers the program, began registrations last Friday, April 30, 2021, and will open the application period today, May 3, 2021, at noon, Eastern Standard Time. The online application will remain open to any eligible establishment until all funds are exhausted.

Entities eligible to apply include restaurants, caterers, bars, bakeries, and breweries. It will prioritize direct relief to women, veterans, and socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, and includes \$9.5 billion in set-asides for smaller businesses.

Established under the American Rescue Plan, and signed into law by President Joe Biden on March 11, 2021, the Restaurant Revitalization Fund provides a total of \$28.6 billion in direct relief funds to restaurants and other hard-hit food establishments that have experienced economic distress and significant operational losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

ID-19 pandemic.

This program will provide restaurants with funding equal to their pandemic-related revenue loss up to \$10 million per business and no more than \$5 million per physical location.

Separately, in his e-kilili newsletter, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said this relief does not have to be repaid, provided that the funds are put toward eligible uses by March 11, 2023.

In preparation, the SBA recommends qualifying applicants familiarize themselves with the application process in advance to ensure a smooth and efficient application experience, specifically by:

- Registering for an account at restaurants.sba.gov starting April 30, 2021.

- Reviewing the official guidance, including program guide, frequently asked questions, and application sample.

- Preparing the required documentation.

- Working with a point-of-sale vendor or visiting restaurants.sba.gov to submit an application. [Note: If

an applicant is working with a point-of-sale vendor, they do not need to register beforehand on the site.]

For the first 21 days that the program is open, SBA will prioritize funding applications from businesses owned and controlled by women, veterans, and socially and economically disadvantaged individuals. All eligible applicants are encouraged to submit applications as soon as the portal opens. Following the 21 days, all eligible applications will be funded on a first-come, first-served basis.

Consistent with the legislation and the intent of Congress, the SBA continues to take steps to ensure the equitable distribution of relief, particularly for the smallest businesses, by creating a \$9.5 billion set-aside: \$5 billion for applicants with 2019 gross receipts of not more than \$500,000; \$4 billion is set aside for applicants with 2019 gross receipts from \$500,001 to \$1,500,000; and \$500 million for applicants with 2019 gross receipts not more than \$50,000.

For more information, visit sba.gov/restaurants.

FULLY

From Page 1

persons are no longer mandated to wear a mask outdoors if it's been two weeks after their final inoculation.

Since half of the adult population have yet to be fully vaccinated in the CNMI, CHCC still advises that practicing the 3 Ws—wearing a mask, washing one's hands, and watching a distance—is still necessary for crowds where social distancing is not possible and in an indoor setting where unvaccinated people may be present.

"Fully vaccinated" means having already received two shots of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, or one shot of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

CDC's guidance says that fully vaccinated people no longer need to wear a mask outdoors, except in certain crowded settings and venues. Fully vaccinated people can also:

- Visit with other fully vaccinated people indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing;

- Visit with unvaccinated people (including children) from a single household who are at low risk for severe COVID-19 disease indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing;

- Participate in outdoor activities and recreation without a mask, except in certain crowded settings and venues.

Additionally, CHCC says quarantine protocols in the CNMI will not only depend on whether a person is vaccinated or not but will also continue to be accounted for to the risk considered by CHCC officials.

4 more test positive for COVID-19

Four individuals have been confirmed positive for COVID-19 over the weekend, this brings the overall total to 168 COVID-19 cases.

According to CHCC, two individuals tested positive last April 30

through travel screening and were confirmed positive through testing upon arrival on April 29.

Two more were also identified by travel screening and confirmed diagnosis through testing upon arrival on April 30.

CHCC says all these individuals have been moved to the designated isolation area for close monitoring.

The CHCC Communicable Disease Investigation/Inspection team has already initiated contact tracing for the most immediate contacts of the new confirmed case, including passengers on the same flight.

CHCC to vaccinate northern part of Saipan

CHCC and the task force will be hosting the next vaccination outreach event this Saturday, May 8, at the Tanapag Youth Center, from 8am to noon. Walk-ins for the first dose COVID-19 vaccinations will be accepted at all vaccination locations.

Last April 28, CHCC administered 36 Moderna Inc. COVID-19 vaccines at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. Last Saturday, CHCC administered 135 Moderna vaccines and one Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine.

As of May 2, 2021, the CNMI has fully vaccinated 18,859 persons, representing approximately 50% of the eligible population.

Additionally, since CHCC has resumed using the Janssen vaccine as per the CDC recommendation, effective April 23, they recommend that women—those younger than 50 years old—should be aware of the rare risk of blood clots with low platelets after vaccination, and that other COVID-19 vaccines are available where this risk has not been seen.

CHCC aims to vaccinate 200 individuals at all outreach sites. Individuals are encouraged to pre-register online at vaccinatecnmi.com, call the CHCC call center at (670) 682-SHOT/7468, or register in person at the CHCC call center in IT&E Chalan Laulau.

TINIAN

From Page 1

The FAPAC awards include the Uniformed Services, Civilian, and Distinguished Public Service Scholarship Awards. These awards recognize civilians and military service members who have made significant contributions to the advancement and promotion of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. The presenting group, FAPAC, is the premier organization representing Asian American and Pacific Islander employees in the federal and District of Columbia governments.

The awards will be presented at the 36th National Leadership Training Program to be held virtually on May 26 and May 27, 2021. Due to the current COVID-19 situation, the 2021 NLTP is going to be all virtual.

The 2021 honorees are:

UNIFORMED SERVICES AWARDS

U.S. Army

- Captain Joseph Estallila
- Sergeant First Class Rizmel Paguio

U.S. Marine Corps

- Sergeant Jamarly Tumaquip
- Corporal Caleb Crone

U.S. Navy

- Chief Petty Officer James Dy

U.S. Air Force

- Captain Hanna Sparks
- Technical Sergeant Ferdinand Hooper

U. S. Coast Guard

- Commander Hoon Park
- Chief Petty Officer Richard Hofschneider

Public Health Service

Commissioned Corps

- Lieutenant Commander Nancy Tian

CIVILIAN AWARDS

Diversity Excellence: Individual who has shown a remarkable contribution towards diversity and inclusion through collaboration and against all odds.

- Lena Chang, Department of the Interior (DOI)

- Kelly Sewell, Department of the Interior (DOI)

Excellence in Individual Achievement: Individual who has shown the greatest contribution toward the AAPI representation at all levels as compared to the total AAPI population.

- Emma Chen, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

- Mary Tran, Naval Air Warfare Center

Outstanding Individual Leadership: Individual who has shown bold leadership and innovative ways in promoting Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO), Affirmative Action, and Diversity.

- Larry Mack, NASA

- Linh Le, Naval Air Warfare Center

DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

- Rebecca Soo, University of California, Berkeley (PR)

Tasi to Table launches Tinian branch

Tasi to Table Inc., a program that seeks to instill the love of fishing and the sea among the youth while also allowing participants to earn high school credits, is branching out to Tinian and had its first program meeting at the Tinian Junior/Senior High School library last April 24.

According to an April 28 Tasi to Table newsletter, 16 student-members attended the launch of the pilot program, which also saw Walter Mendez, project manager for the Public School System’s Mental Health Team, and Jolly Cruz and Wayne Dawe of the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance, as guest presenters.

Mendez’s presentation focused on overall mental wellness and the importance of

dealing with stress and anxiety in a healthy way. “Hopefully I’ve given the kids some tools to manage their daily stresses both as students and also as teens,” said Mendez.

Cruz explained MINA’s vision, gave some examples of the work that MINA does, and presented on the extremely damaging effects that trash has on the environment and marine life, while Dawe conducted an exercise with the students, demonstrating how easily animals can get entangled and even killed by discarded fishing lines, plastic bags, and other trash.

JP Merza, a sophomore at Tinian Junior/Senior High School, said he joined TTT Tinian because he enjoys new experiences. “I like being ad-

venturous and learning new things, and I don’t even know how to fish myself. I’m [looking forward] to learning from this club,” said Merza.

Anissa Dela Cruz, also a sophomore at Tinian Junior/Senior High School, said she joined TTT Tinian because of her peers’ love for fishing: “Ever since I was younger I was always surrounded by boys and how they loved to fish. It really caught my attention, and I want to learn and be a part of that,” said Dela Cruz.

The launch of TTT’s Tinian branch is made possible by the Tinian Mayor’s Office, the Department of Lands & Natural Resources, the CNMI Public School System, and funding from Tinian’s allocated tobacco tax funds. *(Joshua Santos)*

Man claims right to speedy trial was violated

A lawyer has asked the Superior Court to dismiss the case against his client, claiming his client’s right to due process and a speedy trial have been violated.

Lawyer Anthony Aguon asked the Superior Court to dismiss the case against his client, Lucas Taitano Manglona, saying his client has yet to undergo any psychiatric evaluation despite a court order issued more than a year ago.

On Sept. 23, 2020, Aguon said his client waived his right to a preliminary hearing, and a consolidation of cases followed during which the parties informed the court that they were working toward a non-trial disposition of the case.

Last Feb. 8, Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja ordered the defendant to undergo a psychiatric evaluation at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp,

after Aguon filed a motion to determine Manglona’s competency to stand trial. Naraja also ordered a CHCC psychiatrist—or other qualified mental health professional—to file a written report to the clerk of court within 60 days of the April 10 order.

To date, Aguon said, Manglona remains in the custody of the Department of Corrections and has yet to undergo any psychiatric evaluation.

According to Aguon, CHCC also failed to file any written report. After further inquiry with CHCC, he learned from CHCC’s legal counsel that “CHCC does not provide competency evaluations as one of its services.”

“CHCC also has not filed any written report on the matter. Further, to the best of the undersigned counsel’s knowledge, there are no other qualified mental healthcare profes-

sionals on island who are able to provide this evaluation to defendant,” said Aguon.

According to Aguon, the court may not criminally proceed in this case until or unless the defendant is found legally competent. To proceed against an incompetent defendant or to keep a defendant in jail indefinitely is a due process violation, he said.

“Due to the inability to conduct a mental competency test pursuant to the Commonwealth law, and in order to protect his constitutional due process rights, defendant should be released unconditionally, and the court should dismiss this case in its entirety,” Aguon added.

Manglona was allegedly responsible for damaging different cars in separate incidents and was then charged with tampering with a vehicle and vandalism. *(Justine Nauta)*

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Jaypee N. Baysa
Petitioner,

vs.

Qiaoling T. Baysa
Respondent,

FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION
NO. 21-0113

SUMMONS FOR
PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 504318 Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgement by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 25th day of March, 2021.

/s/ Clerk of Court

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INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-21-022

Installation of Primary Screen

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Installation of Primary Screen in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The intent of the contract is for the Contractor to provide all labor, equipment, supplies and materials necessary to complete the scope of work which consists of; the installation of a primary screen (OFCI), foundations, sewer piping, sewer valves and valve box, water service, electrical service, water booster pump, basket strainers, and rehabilitation and modification of existing improvements, along with other miscellaneous features, for one unit at Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The work shall be completed with minimal disruption to the daily operation of the Sadog Tasi WWTP. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 180 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded through Saipan Local Law 20-19.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **April 21, 2021 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-IFB-21-022, Installation of Primary Screen” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 13, 2021, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on April 27, 2021** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Westen Knudsen, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and to Marcela Tenorio, CUC P&S, Senior Administrative Technician - marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM GILMORE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES

CUC-RAESP-21-024

A&E Design Services for the Dandan Water Tank Replacement Project, Kagman Water Tank Replacement Project, and the Tinian Water Tank Replacement Project

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) in coordination with the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for the Design Services of the following projects: Dandan Water Tank Replacement Project, Kagman Water Tank Replacement Project, and the Tinian Water Tank Replacement in Saipan and Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from NMHC & HUD.

Prospective Proposers for this project must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal and One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal in a separate envelope must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-RAESP-21-024, A&E Design Services for Dandan Water Tank Replacement Project, Kagman Water Tank Replacement Project, and the Tinian Water Tank Replacement Project”, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 20, 2021. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC and NMHC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant’s preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAESP does not commit CUC and NMHC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAESP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 29, 2021** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Larry Manacop, CUC Water/Wastewater, Acting Chief Engineer – via email larry.manacop@cucgov.org; and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior – via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC and NMHC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC and NMHC.

WILLIAM B. GILMORE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

Happy Teacher Appreciation Week, which starts today, May 3, 2021, and lasts until May 7, 2021, to all teachers! Greetings come from the Hilitais of Hopwood Middle School.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

JKPL main lobby closed for 2 months for construction repairs

Starting last Saturday, May 1, 2021, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's main lobby will be closed for two months as it undergoes extensive repair due to the damage caused by Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018.

While the main lobby undergoes construction, JKPL

has designated the Children of Our Homeland Center—or the Children's Library—as the alternate location for general library services to the public.

The Children of Our Homeland Center will open for limited library services. Patrons are encouraged to visit the

Children's Library to access the free WiFi, computers, and check in/check out books. "We ask the public to please check out our free virtual learning services available at our website www.cnmilib.org. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding as we undergo

this period of construction. We thank you for your support. Stay safe, CNMI," said the li-

brary in a statement last week.

Follow JKPL on Facebook and Instagram @joetenki-

yupubliclibrary for the latest news and updates or call (670) 235-7322/7323 (READ). (PR)

MCS extends Early Bird Special to May 7

In an effort to assist families, Mount Carmel School recently announced that the school will extend its Early Bird Special to May 7, 2021.

The Early Bird Special is an opportunity for parents to avail of major registration and tuition discounts for the upcoming school year. The annual early bird registration discount is as

follows: For grades K4 - K5 registration is \$50 per student (normally \$100). For students in grades first through twelfth, the registration fee is \$100 per student (normally \$400).

Families with two children can avail of a \$600 tuition discount for the second child, families with three children can avail of a \$1,000 tuition discount for

the third child, and families with four children can avail of a \$1,500 tuition discount for the fourth child.

On May 1, 2021, Mount Carmel School also announced that she will begin accepting online applications for financial aid. Students may apply for one of three types of aid available, \$750 for an academic scholarship, \$750 for an extracurricular scholarship, or \$750 in financial aid.

The financial aid and scholarship application deadline is scheduled for May 31, 2021, at 5pm. Only online applications will be accepted. Final award decisions will be announced by June 30, 2021.

To learn more about enrolling at Mount Carmel School for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year, call 234-6184 or visit www.mountcarmelsaipan.com. (MCS)

NMC CREES awarded \$200K to be aquaculture regional training hub

The Northern Marianas College's Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Services was recently awarded a \$197,690 two-year grant to train personnel to improve forklift rabbitfish production in the CNMI and the Micronesian region.

This project will improve the supply of Rabbitfish fingerlings to farmers in the CNMI, Guam, Palau, and the Marshall Islands. Consistent fingerling supply will allow farmers to plan their crops and invest their financial resources into Rabbitfish farming. Fish farming is the fastest growing food production sector in the world with growth rates of 8% annually.

Aside from local, wild caught fish, the CNMI imports farmed fish like tilapia, milkfish, and shrimp. Farming fish and other cultured seafood will help reduce importation, secure the food supply, and help the CNMI's economy through economic diversification, job creation, and reduce currency outflow.

The project, which is led by NMC CREES Aquaculture and Natural Resources program leader Michael Ogo, in partnership with the Oceanic Institute, focuses on the transfer of knowledge and technology on intensive copepod culture, broodstock management, and marine finfish larval through the NMC CREES Aquaculture and Natural Resources program.

"The award of this project to NMC CREES speaks to how far the Aquaculture & Natural Resources Program has come where the regional aquaculture center in Hawaii is placing enough confidence in the program to provide training to aquaculture practitioners in the region," said Ogo.

The Center for Tropical and Subtropical Aquaculture at the University of Hawaii at Manoa is the funder for this grant. CTSA saw a bottleneck in the supply of Rabbitfish juveniles to regional farmers, prompting immediate action to address this issue to immediately expand the production

of Rabbitfish within the Micronesian region.

It was NMC-CREES' Aquaculture and Natural Resources program that first discovered that in order to solve the supply issue, copepods are to be used as a first "live feed" for rabbitfish larvae.

Copepods are small crustaceans that can be found in fresh or saltwater habitats.

"This is a great feat for NMC and the CNMI/Micronesian region," NMC interim president Frankie Eliptico said.

Upon completion of the project in 2023, NMC-CREES hopes to have improved rabbitfish broodstock management, as well as an increase of available rabbitfish juveniles available to individuals looking to farm rabbitfish.

"We look forward to continuing to build local and regional capacity in aquaculture as we focus on ways to increase local food security while diversifying economic activity," said interim dean of CREES Patricia Coleman. (NMC)



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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

(This is ad is paid for NMHC with HUD funds)

NMHC RFP 2021-009

BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME: June 1, 2021, 10:00 a.m.

Consulting Services for the Preparation of Environmental Review Records

The Request for Proposals and Scope of Services will be available on April 29, 2021 at the NMHC website at www.nmhc.gov.net by clicking on the "Procurement Tab" or by visiting the CDBG-DR website at www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com.

Inquiries regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing or email to Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer at officemanager@nmhc.gov.net or submitted by facsimile to (670)234-9021 no later than 4:00 PM local time on May 14, 2021.

The provisions of the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670)234-6866/9447 or email at officemanager@nmhc.gov.net during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC)

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Chairwoman
NMHC Board of Directors



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID

ITB21-CHCC/RHC-001

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MAY 6th, 2021 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)


"ROTA HEALTH CENTER-NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/s/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/s/ CORAZON P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY



DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB21-GOV-086

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 01, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) CLASS "I" FIVE (5) DOOR 4X4 UTILITY VEHICLE FOR THE GOVERNOR'S AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ VIRGINIA C. VILLAGOMEZ
GOVERNOR'S AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

/s/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

‘WH received Manglona re-nomination’

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said Thursday last week he already recommended to President Joseph Biden U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona's re-nomination for another term.

In an email response to *Saipan Tribune's* request for an update, Sablan said he has already submitted Manglona's name to the Biden administration. "I did so since I am convinced that she has been a remarkable jurist and deserves to continue her service on the bench," the delegate said.

As to separate resolutions filed by Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) and Sen. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) expressing strong support for Manglona's re-nomination, Sablan said it is not his place to say what a local legislator can or cannot introduce.

He pointed out, though, that his nearly 13 years in Congress, he has learned that for a position of such importance as a federal court judge, "We must necessarily say as little as possible and work as hard as possible in getting the President's nomination and the Senate's ad-



Manglona

vice and consent."

Sablan said the White House has already informed his congressional office that they have received Manglona's name for re-nomination to the bench. "I would hate for them to receive other communications that could be misread as a reminder. That would be unfortunate," he added.

Manglona's 10-year term as chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the NMI will expire this July 28, 2021.

If she is nominated again to the federal court bench, Sablan believes accolades should be given to Manglona when she takes her second oath of office.

In a resolution filed Wednesday, Santos (Ind-Rota) stated that Manglona's contin-

ued dedication and commitment in upholding the U.S. Constitution and the highest standards of legal competence and ethical conduct has made her eminently qualified to earn the re-nomination to serve another term as chief judge of the district court.

Separately, Demapan (R-Saipan) recently introduced House Resolution 22-8 that encourages Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Sablan to submit to Biden their recommendation for the re-nomination of Manglona and to recognize her for her distinguished career.

Manglona became the first person from the CNMI to be appointed to a federal judge court in 2011. Then-governor Benigno R. Fitial recommended her to then-President Barack Obama for nomination as chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

In January 2011, Obama nominated Manglona. The U.S. Senate confirmed her on July 27, 2011. She assumed office as chief judge on July 30, 2011.

Prior to her appointment, Manglona was a Superior Court associate judge. In 2002 she became the attorney general for the CNMI.

Torres recently stated he supports Manglona's re-nomination.



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Tels: (670) 234-9447, 234-6866, 234-7670



PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 5 A. of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("NMHC") Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery ("CDBG-DR") Program's Action Plan ("AP"), this is to notify the general public about these proposed substantial and non-substantial amendments to the CDBG-DR AP and afford citizen participation and the opportunity to comment on these proposed amendments. The general public has thirty (30) days from publication date of this Public Notice to submit comments on these proposed changes to the CDBG-DR AP.

Substantial amendments are required when there is a change in program benefit/eligibility criteria, addition/deletion of an activity, or reallocation of substantial amounts. A substantial amendment will also be required if any program changes exceed five million dollars (\$5,000,000). Substantial amendments must provide a reasonable opportunity (at least 30 days) for citizen comment. All changes must be documented by NMHC's CDBG-DR Program to provide both necessary and reasonable justifications. All substantial amendments will include the following:

1. The exact identification of which content is being added, deleted, or changed;
2. A clear description of where funds are moved from/to; and
3. The updated and revised budget after re-allocation of funding.

Conversely, non-substantial amendments to the Action Plan are not subject to citizen participation but NMHC decided to include a non-substantial amendment to the said Plan in this Public Notice for informational purposes only.

Furthermore, all action plan amendments will be available via the CNMI CDBG-DR website at www.cnmi-cdbg-dr.com and hardcopies may be obtained at any of the NMHC central and CDBG-DR offices located on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota by those who do not have access to the Internet. Notifying the public is of paramount importance as these funds are largely dependent on public participation and the remaining unmet need to be assessed. NMHC will utilize the following avenues/outlets to notify the public of the CDBG-DR Program:

- Notices in the local newspaper
- Radio announcements
- Social media
- CNMI CDBG-DR website

Last, NMHC will take reasonable steps to ensure very low-, low-, and moderate-income persons, including persons with disabilities, the elderly and persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) have meaningful access and an equal opportunity to participate in this important CDBG-DR activity and in accordance to prescribed policies and procedures embedded in the CDBG-DR Program's Citizen Participation Plan. The aforesaid and complete Citizen Participation Plan may be accessed at the CNMI CDBG-DR website: www.cnmi-cdbg-dr.com or found on Section 5 on the CDBG-DR Action Plan (pages 78 - 83). A copy of the Action Plan, as amended by these proposed changes, may be accessed at the CNMI CDBG-DR website at: www.cnmi-cdbg-dr.com or obtained at any of the NMHC offices on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

Tinian Field Office
Tel: (670) 433-9213 • Fax: (670) 433-3690

CDBG-DR Office
Tel: (670) 233-9447/9448/9449

Rota Field Office
Tel: (670) 532-9410 • Fax: (670) 532-9441



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ARONGORONGOL TOULAP

Sáangi Táilil 5 A. reel Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("NMHC") Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery ("CDBG-DR") "Program's Action Plan ("AP"), bwulul mille nge ebwe arongaar toulap reel pommwol liiwel ikka e lo bwe "substantial" me "non-substantial" ngáli CBDG-DR me ayoorai ngáli aramas ikka re tútúta me ebwe mmwel rebwe isiisilong kkapas wóól pommwol liiwel kkal. Rebwe ngaleer toulap eliigh ráál sáangi ráálil igha e akkatéwowa Arongorongol Toulap yeel ebwe isiisilong kkapas wóól pommwol liiwel kkal ngáli CBDG-DR AP. Liiwel ikka e lo bwe "substantial" ebwe yoor ngáre eyoor liiwel loll progróoma reel "benefit/eligibility criteria", aschuulongol me siiwel sáangi mwóghutughut, ngáre "reallocation of substantial amounts". Ebwe bwal yoor "substantial amendment" ngáre eyoor progróoma iye e ayoorai siiwel iye e aluulói "five million dollars" (\$5,000,000). "Substantial amendments" ebwe ayoora "reasonable opportunity" loll eliigh ráál ngáliir aar toulap fóós. Ebwe yoor ammwelil alongal liiwel sáangi NMHC aar CBDG-DR Program me ebwe yoor "necessary and reasonable justifications". Alongal "substantial amendments" ebwe bwal aschuulong milikka e amwirimwiritiw"

1. Ebwe ffat ifa me óutol iye ebwe aschuulong, siiwel, ngáre liiweli;
2. Ebwe ffat e mweteló iya fundo ngáre e tooto me iya; me
3. "Updated and revised budget" mwiril "re-allocation of funding".

Siiweli mwáliili we e ghoomw, "non-substantial amendments" ngáli "Action Plan" ese ffil bwe toulap rebwe tuutá nge ngáre NMHC e disidiy bwe rebwe aschuulong "non-substantial amendments" ngáli Plóno iye re apasa llól Arongorongol Toulap bwulul arongorong schagh.

E bwal schuulong, alongal liiwelil "action plan" eyoor me CNMI CDBG-DR website me www.cnmi-cdbg-dr.com me emmwel ubwe bweibwogh pappid reel bwulasiyo kkemwu e lo Seipél, Tchiliyól, me Luuta reel schóó kkemwu esóór yaar "access" ngáli "Internet". E ówtcheya rebwe arongaar toulap reel fundo ikka e lo ngáliir toulap rebwe tuutá llól ammwelil me lemelemil reel ikka e bwal lo bwe "unmet need". NMHC rebwe aghatchú le aronga toulap reel Progróomal CBDG-DR sáangi mwóghutughut ikka e amwirimwiritiw:

- Arongorong me llól simbungw
- Arongorong sáangi reedio
- Social media
- CNMI CDBG-DR website

Ottimwo, NMHC ebwe ayoorai afal ngáli igha rebwe ayoorai sóssól-, sóssól-, me e "moderate-income persons", e schuulong aramas ikka eyoor aar "disabilities", tuufey me aramas ikka re lo bwe "Limited English Proficiency (LEP) rebwe bwal tuutá me yááyá llól mwóghutughutúl CBDG-DR me llól lemelemil "policies" me mwóghutughut llól "CDBG-DR Program's Citizen Participation Plan". Emmwel ubwe schuungi mille re ghommwal óóleghi me óutol "Citizen Participation Plan" reel aar CNMI CDBG-DR website me: www.cnmi-cdbg-dr.com ngáre bwal wóól Táilil 5 wóól CBDG-DR Action Plan (peigh 78 - 83). Pappidil "Action Plan", igha re liiweli sáangi pommwol liiwel, emmwelil ubwe bweibwogh me CNMI-CDBG-DR website me: www.cnmi-cdbg-dr.com ngáre inamwo ifa reel bwulasiyol NMHC ikka e lo Seipél, Tchiliyól, me Luuta.

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NUTISIAN PUPBLIKU

Sigun para i Seksiona 5 A. gi "Northern Marianas Housing Corporation" ("NMHC") i "Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery ("CDBG-DR")" na Prugráman "Action Plan" ("AP"), para u manafanungu' i henerát pupbliku put esti i manmaproponi na "substantial" yan "non-substantial" na amenda siha gi CBDG-DR AP yan para u maná'i i pupbliku tiempu para u fampattisipáo yan i uputunidát para u famanoppi' gi esti i manmaproponi na amenda siha. I henerát pupbliku debi na u ma'intrega hálum i upiñon-ñiha gi halum trenta (30) dihas ginen i fetchan publikasion nu esti na Nutisia put esti i tinilaika ni manmaproponi siha gi CBDG-DR AP. I "substantial" na amenda siha manaprisisu yanggin guaha tinilaika gi halum i prugráman benifisiu/"criteria" i kuálifikáo, "addition/deletion" nu i aktibidát, o sino "reallocation i "substantial amount". I "substantial" na amenda siempri lókkui' prumisisu yanggin kuatkuet na tinilaika siha gi prugráma umupus i singku miyon pesos (\$5,000,000). I "substantial" na amenda debi na u pribeni rasonáppli na uputunidát (maseha 30 dihas) para upiñon publiku. Todu i tinilaika siha debi na u madukumentu ni Prugráman NMHC's CBDG-DR para u pribeni todú i dos nisisáriu yan rasonáppli na "justification". Todu i "substantial" na amenda siha siempri ingklusu i mantinattiyi:

1. I eksakto na aidentifikasion nu mánu na sinahguan maná'yi, mafunas, pat matulaika;
2. Kláru na diskripsion nu ginen mánu/para mánu i fundu; yan
3. I mäs nuebu yan maribisa na "budget" dispues di i "re-allocation" nu i saláppi'.

Gi inátlabis, i "non-substantial" na amenda siha para i "Action Plan" ti manmasuhetu para páttisipasion siudadanu láo i NMHC madisidi para u ingklusu i "non-substantial" na amenda para i mamensiona na Plánu gi halum esti na Nutisia para infotmasion ha' na rason siha.

Yan mäs, todú i "action plan" na amenda siha siempri managuaha gi website i CNMI CDBG-DR gi www.cnmi-cdbg-dr.com yan siña machuli' kopia gi ufisinan i NMHC yan i CBDG-DR siha ni gaigi iya Saipan, Tinian, yan Luta para etyi siha i ti siña ma'akes i "Internet". I ninatutungu' i pupbliku mampus impottánti sa' esti na fundu dinipendi meggai gi páttisipasion pupbliku yan i tetenan ni ti matakka' nisisita para u ma'ebalua. I NMHC siempri ma'usa i mantinattiyi na "avenues/outlets" para u manafanungu' i pupbliku put i Prugráman CBDG-DR:

- Nutisia gi halum gaseta
- Anunsio Rediu
- Social media
- CNMI CDBG-DR website

Uttimu, i NMHC siempri ha chuli' rasonáppli na manera para u na'siguru na i "very low-, low-, yan "moderate-income" na petsona siha, kuntuodu i táotáo ni gai disibidát, i gai inamku' yan i táotáo ni "Limited English Proficiency (LEP)" na managuaha akses para u mäs makumprendi i prugráma yan parehu na uputunidát para u fampattisipáo gi halum esti impottánti na aktibidát i CBDG-DR ni kumunfotma yan i manmakátkátga na "policies" yan "procedures" ni gaigi gi halum i Prugráman CBDG-DR Citizen Participation Plan." I manmamensiona yan kumplidu na "Citizen Participation Plan" siña ma'akes gi website i CNMI CDBG-DR gi: www.cnmi-cdbg-dr.com o sino siña masodda' gi Seksiona 5 gi CBDG-DR "Action Plan" (páhina 78 - 83). I kopian i "Action Plan", komu ma'amenda ginen esti na tinilaika na priniponi siha, siña ma'akes gi website i CNMI CDBG-DR gi: www.cnmi-cdbg-dr.com o sino siña machuli' kopia gi maseha mánu na ufisinan i NMHC iya Saipan, Tinian, yan Luta.

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

Tinian Field Office
Tel: (670) 433-9213 • Fax: (670) 433-3690

CDBG-DR Office
Tel: (670) 233-9447/9448/9449

Rota Field Office
Tel: (670) 532-9410 • Fax: (670) 532-9441

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Shaming wrong approach to boost vaccines

Now that more than half of Americans have received at least one COVID vaccine, this is a milestone we should all celebrate. The Biden administration is marking the moment with a partial rollback of masks. It's the easing of these restrictions that may encourage more people to seek the vaccine.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Tuesday lifted its outdoor mask recommendations, which are relied on by many governors in their own policies. The guidance offers the most leeway to individuals who are vaccinated, but eases restrictions for everyone.

"If you are fully vaccinated, things are much safer for you than those who are not yet fully vaccinated," CDC director Rochelle Walensky said about the changes.

As the country and states like Michigan have made it through initial rocky rollouts of the vaccine, the COVID shots are now available to anyone over 16, and it is much easier to book appointments than earlier in the year.

Yet supply is no longer the issue in most places. Rather, the new challenge is waning demand. Vaccine hesitancy remains stubbornly around 25% of the population, and this is true across demographics.

This is a problem as the nation seeks to reach herd immunity, yet state and national officials should be very careful in how they try to reach this part of the population.

Insulting them is not the right approach, as some reports, including a recent one from Kaiser Health News, have done in singling out rural, conservative strongholds such as Hillsdale County, Michigan. Trying to make "COVID denialism" and vaccine resistance a Republican problem could make these individuals dig in their heels more, especially if criticism is coming from Democrats.

It's also a misleading narrative. Vaccine hesitancy in Hillsdale County is slightly less than that in Wayne County, and is on par with many others in southern Michigan. COVID rates in Hillsdale are similar, too. In Detroit, less than 30% of residents have received at least one shot—and it's not because of lack of vaccine availability.

People need to see that in getting the vaccine, they will reap new freedom and "normalcy" in their daily lives.

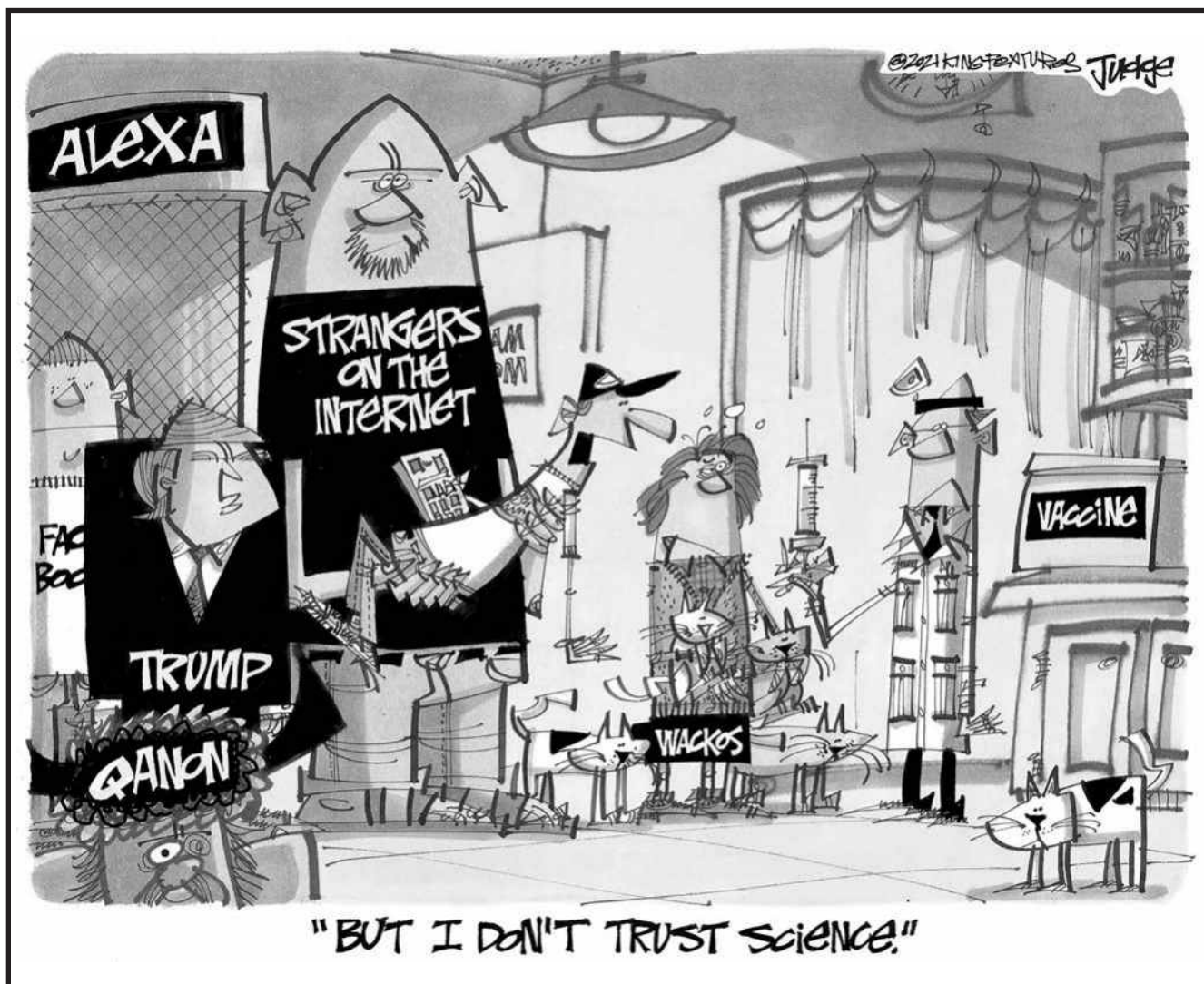
Brian Wesbury, chief economist at First Trust Portfolio, recently posed an excellent question: "If you can't take off your mask and life can't go back to normal, what is the incentive to take a vaccine that has an 'emergency use authorization' from the FDA?"

Right now in Michigan, there isn't much incentive on that front.

Mask mandates and gathering limits remain in place, regardless of vaccination status, and state workplace safety bureaucrats are crafting permanent rules that could well live on even after the Health Department's epidemic orders go away.

This is the wrong message to send to citizens.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer can encourage people to get the vaccine, but she also needs to let them know how their lives will tangibly improve if they do.



"BUT I DON'T TRUST SCIENCE."

The first 100 days are now gone, but not the crisis

Let's see, he has already spent \$1.9 trillion, plans to spend another \$4.1 trillion and pretty soon we are talking about real money. On hearing President Joe Biden outline his monetary and other grandiose ambitions in a speech before a miniaturized, virus-wary Congress, Republican Sen. Mitt Romney thought his moolah mutters nothing less than foolish, saying in a New York Times quote, "Maybe if he were younger, I'd say his dad needs to take away his credit card."

Born in 1942, Biden cannot claim youth or inexperience as an excuse. He served as a senator for 36 years, as a vice president for eight years and lately has splashed through 100 scary days as president. Through his child-crunching, crime-abetting, town-wrecking border crisis, he has shown he hasn't learned much about fixing things, even as he claims we're "on the move again" after suffering from recent historic crises. He failed to include progressivism's attacks on the basic principles of our republic, but did equate the Capitol riot with the Civil War.

Still, Biden has mastered quite a bit over time, such as what it means to be Bernie Sanders. He definitely knows political opportunity when he sees it; he is taking credit for a COVID-19 recovery that was already in fast motion before he took office, and plans to take from the rich, not just to give to the poor, but to give to everyone else. That earns votes.

Biden has this idea, as one example, of making a couple of years of community college free for everyone, even millionaires, I guess. Community colleges are already free for the poor through Pell Grants, and I respect that, but not this anymore than I would respect him for giving me an electric car tomorrow. An answer is that he wants to add two more years to public schooling after high school, something worth considering, but some of us think a more important move would be to offer choice of schools through vouchers.

His proposed handouts could in effect tell many successful workers they do not have to work. Jobs make you more independent and give you dignity. That's why one of the great accomplishments in the Trump years was the highest employment record for Black Americans in history. Some progressives of my

By **JAY AMBROSE**

Tribune News Service

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speaktojay@aol.com.



acquaintance contend the economy was really not so great then, but former President Barack Obama disagrees to the point of saying it was his doing.

Well, Biden says he has "the largest jobs plan since World War II." That seems in contrast to his \$15-an-hour national minimum wage that will wipe out a million jobs. Next in line is his premature, foolish attack not on fossil fuels as such, but on producing them in this country while we still need them. Climate change is a serious problem but it is not apocalyptic, as this science denier says, and his answers on that front would likely be the exact opposite of an economic uplift that he predicts.

Biden certainly did talk in a caring, positive voice, and that felt good, but compassion minus wisdom is not so wonderful, as in his not pushing harder to have teachers' unions open school doors for in-person learning instead of students receiving distance learning that could lead to lasting deficits of the mind. Why didn't he use some of his \$1,400 checks that also went to pretty well-off folks to pay for home-visiting, well-masked tutors?

His Newest Deal was easily outdone by Sen. Tim Scott, R.-S.C., who gave a Republican reply that was polite even as he talked of how bipartisanship had gone away since Democrats took control of Congress, of how he had worked for police reform as Democrats refused discussion, how wages grew most at the bottom in the Trump years, how Biden's infrastructure plan was puny and how there are great possibilities for all Americans, including Black Americans such as himself.

Leftists called him "Uncle Tim." I found him presidential.



EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Taiwan, the Republic of China, or ROC

Marianas Islanders understand the importance of building relationships with other peoples, places, and organizations. This is exemplified in part, with recent action taken by Guam lawmakers who passed a resolution in support of Taiwan's desire to obtain observer status at the World Health Organization's upcoming 74th annual World Health Assembly. Executive line and autonomous agency officials of the government of Guam are seeking to fully execute a Taiwan-Guam tourist arrival agreement.

All this has taken place while concurrent actions have been taken by Taiwan to both reopen its foreign ministry office in Guam and to donate personal protective equipment to help islanders contain the COVID 19 pandemic.

US-Taiwan relations

Congress passed the Taiwan Assurance Act of 2020 to demonstrate America's desire to strengthen relations with Taiwan. The United States supports Taiwan's increased involvement in multinational engagements representing itself as an economic entity, not as a future politically independent nation state.

The United Nations made the 1971 decision to recognize the People's Republic of China, which resulted in the ROC being placed outside of the purview of the UN. The 1979 implementation of the Taiwan Relations Act by the United States established the basis for America to have an official, unofficial bilateral relationship with Taiwan.

America is not obligated to defend Taiwan under the Taiwan Relations Act, yet Taiwan purchases billions of dollars of American military equipment to better enable its government to defend itself from a possible attack by mainland China.

China and Taiwan remain at odds on ideas of what constitutes nationalism and sovereignty. China views Taiwan as its own and continues maritime patrol operations near the island while the United States remains ever present through maritime transit operations in the Taiwan Strait.

Economic interdependencies

Taiwan is a fully integrated export-driven economy centrally involved in supply chain economics. China is Taiwan's biggest export market. Taiwan and the United States have established relationships in service, industrial, agricultural, pharmaceuticals, and semiconductor trade, foreign exchange holdings and related direct investment.

Guam leaders going the right direction

Government of Guam lawmakers and the governor are walking down the right strategic path toward economic diversification through its whole-of-insular government approach with Taiwan. Taiwan's economy is over 100 times the size of Guam's economy from a gross domestic/insular product and service point of view, making Taiwan an ideal long-term partner for the island.

Northern Marianas leaders going the right direction

Northern Marianas Islands leaders have also made the right decision to reestablish relations with Taiwan last month by restarting representative office operations. The NMI and Taiwan have forward opportunities to find new and creative ways to work together to broaden and diversify their respective economies.

Taiwan would be an ideal partner for the Northern Marianas on infectious disease studies and disease monitoring training because of all the work Taiwan has done on this front. Taiwan and the Northern Marianas would also find benefit with pursuing possible student, professional, or aviation-related exchange programs.

How ambiguity becomes clarity in narrowly defined colonized spaces

Taiwan is a fledgling democracy that is biased in ways that favor American-style politics. Taiwan has led the way in providing readily accessible exercise facilities to help keep its population healthy, it maintains a world-class medical health affairs care delivery system and sustains a robust media.

Yet these pockets of excellence operate within broader grey zone of colonized political realities. The United States maintains an official position of ambiguity when it comes to its relations with Taiwan. America's policy on Taiwan is intended to deter China from attacking Taiwan. It is also a policy that dissuades Taiwan from declaring itself to be politically independent by framing the island as a sound and prosperous economic entity.

If Taiwan came under attack, America's long-term credibility in the region will be tested. If the U.S. provides some military support that results in clear losses or a stalemate, allies such as Japan, South Korea, and the Philippines might pause or gravitate closer into China's geopolitical orbit. Guam and the NMI would be further reinforced militarily as a key logistical and launching point for war, posing existential threats to our ancient Pacific Islander civilization.

RICK'S COLUMN

By RICK PEREZ

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Rick Perez used to serve in the U.S. military and has work experiences in public policy research and public affairs. He is passionate about national security and geopolitics and runs a newsletter called Guam Affairs at guamaffairs.substack.com. For questions or comments, contact Perez at rickp7839@gmail.com.

Similarities between Taiwan and the Marianas Islands

Guam, the Northern Marianas, and Taiwan face a similar kind of policy predicament driven by the geopolitical underbelly of American self-interests of maintaining strategic political ambiguity.

The United States euphemistically refers to Guam as "America in Asia," or "where America's day begins" or borrows label names that divert or conceal the deeper colonial underpinnings and power imbalances that have been in place between the ancient Chamorro people of our Marianas Islands and the American administering power.

U.S. policy toward Taiwan and the Mariana Islands represents at its core an amalgamation of three fundamental constructs. First, there is the desire to secure and maintain total advantage for all things military and intelligence related. Second, there is a desire to enable Pacific Islanders and Taiwanese to pursue economic growth opportunities in ways that do not conflict with American military or national interest objectives. Lastly, both Taiwan and the Marianas are intended by the United States to remain in a clearly unclear political end-state so that no further perceived disruptions and uncertainties will prevent America from delivering hard and soft power capabilities throughout the region. This is fundamentally wrong at many levels.

What must not go unnoticed is that the need to further diversify the economies of our Mariana Island chain is founded on the presupposition that the core utility of our ancient blue ocean continent space to the United States is founded on the maintenance, growth, and total freedom of action across all domains, while shaping the hearts and minds of our ancient Chamorro people and other Pacific Islander civilizations throughout Micronesia. This is also fundamentally wrong.

Want to end the pandemic? Pay people to get vaccinated

When I received my first dose of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine last December, nobody paid me to roll up my sleeve. Yet, as vaccination efforts approach an expected tipping point, at which the amount of available vaccine exceeds the number of willing recipients, with the rate of vaccination far below the threshold required for herd immunity, paying people to take their shots likely offers our society's best chance at stemming the pandemic.

Private employers—including American Airlines, Marriott and Dollar General, have already taken the lead in this regard—but payouts are generally low: an extra day off or a few hours pay. The sooner the government starts offering larger cash incentives to the public the safer all of us will be; former Maryland Congressman John Delaney has proposed \$1,500.

Financial incentives have been shown to be highly effective in persuading patients to obtain a wide range of medical services, from complying with treatments for tuberculosis and hypertension to attending weight loss programs and showing up for post-partum medical appointments. Give parents cash coupons, and they even more prove willing to take their children to the dentist. Programs that spend taxpayer dollars paying people to act in their own best interest may strike some as unfair. Yet in a medical system where we pay for each other's poor health choices indirectly in the long run, either through Medicare, Medicaid or elevated private insurance rates, paying people to stay well today can spare society costs in the

future. Incentivizing smokers to attend tobacco cessation programs now, for instance, is likely far cheaper than paying for their chemotherapy later.

Concerns have been raised by bioethicist Nancy Jecker and others that such payments are coercive. I agree. That is the whole point. Coercion is not inherently unethical. For example, if I park in front of a fire hydrant, the city will tow my car; if I do not show up for work, my employer will stop sending me a paycheck. Coercion becomes problematic only when it infringes upon some vital liberty or imposes unfair risks on some groups more than others. Paying people to act in ways that will save their lives, and protect their neighbors, does neither. Of course, those with less money may prove more motivated to accept cash to get vaccinated, but that's a desirable result if it saves the lives of more indigent people.

Legally, the government can compel people to get vaccinated. This principle was established by the United States Supreme Court in 1905 and has been upheld consistently ever since. Doing so would also be ethically justifiable to protect the small number of individuals for whom vaccination proves ineffective. More important, sizable unvaccinated populations increase the risks of new coronavirus variants that could render vaccines ineffective—thus threatening the lives and livelihoods of us all.

In our nation, one generally has a right to control what enters one's body. But nobody has the right to drive after consuming alcohol, because doing so threatens others. Yet

By JACOB M. APPEL

The Baltimore Sun








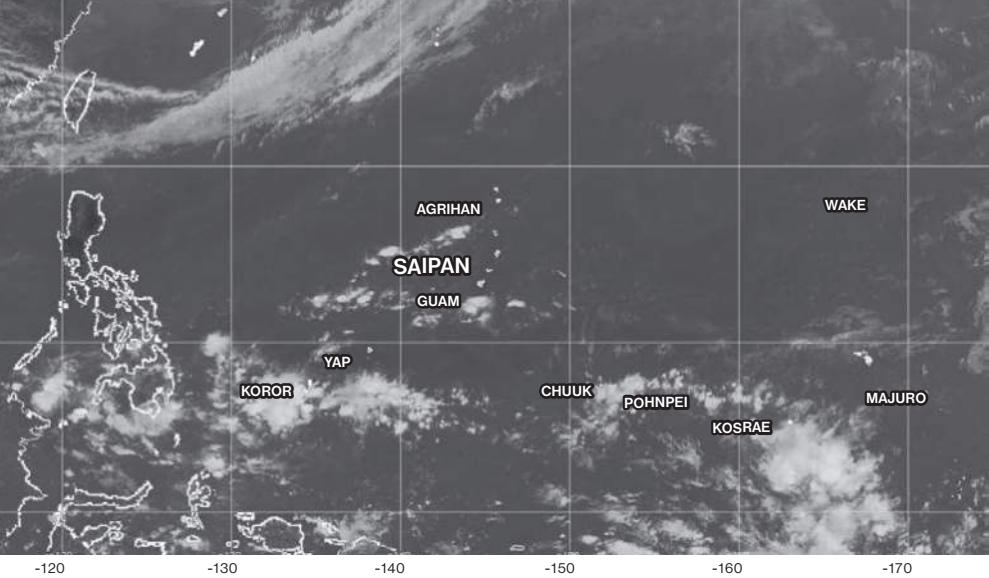
*Jacob M. Appel is director of Ethics Education in Psychiatry at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. He is the author of *Who Says You're Dead?* a collection of ethical conundrums. He wrote this for the Baltimore Sun.*

COVID-19 has killed approximately 50-times the number of Americans as intoxicated drivers have since last March—and a novel variant could kill many more. It is a perverse notion of liberty that gives people the right to infect their neighbors with a deadly disease.

Compulsory vaccination is unlikely to prove workable in the United States. Jailing or fining objectors would lead to massive resistance. In contrast, offering people a tax credit if they are vaccinated is unlikely to generate civil disobedience. That is not to say every vaccine-resistant citizen will roll up his sleeve for a check, but that's OK: 100% vaccination is an unrealistic goal. But there likely is a price that could persuade enough of the hesitant or indifferent to reach the threshold needed for herd immunity. If we don't pay up soon, we may find ourselves paying the price of inaction soon enough.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.		Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.	
86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:21 AM, SUNDAY, MAY 2, 2021
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows partly cloudy skies with isolated showers moving through the Marianas Waters this morning. Overnight, a few of these showers did manage to become thunderstorms, although it looks like they were just outside the coastal waters. The buoys reveal combined seas of 4 to 6 feet, composed almost entirely of east trade-wind swell with some east-northeast wind waves on top.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87	80 °F
Palau	Thunderstorms	85	77 °F
Yap	Thunderstorms	88	71 °F
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	86	81 °F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85	78 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	84	79 °F
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	85	81 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:52 AM	6:35 PM
Tuesday	5:52 AM	6:35 PM
Wednesday	5:52 AM	6:35 PM
Thursday	5:51 AM	6:35 PM
Friday	5:51 AM	6:36 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:02 AM	11:31 AM	-
Tuesday	12:54 AM	12:29 PM	-
Wednesday	1:40 AM	1:24 PM	-
Thursday	2:22 AM	2:15 PM	-
Friday	3:00 AM	3:04 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Sunny	69	62 °F
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	88	55 °F
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	76	67 °F
Honolulu	Sunny	84	71 °F
London	Cloudy	58	42 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny	86	61 °F
Manila	Partly Cloudy	95	81 °F
Melbourne	Cloudy	64	55 °F
Miami	Sunny	85	77 °F
New York	Partly Cloudy	79	59 °F
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	67	55 °F
Paris	Rain	59	36 °F
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	73	44 °F
Rome	Cloudy	61	45 °F
Salem	Partly Cloudy	59	37 °F
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	68	55 °F
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	70	46 °F
Tokyo	Cloudy	61	51 °F
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	85	68 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:01 AM	Low Tide	1.93	
7:31 AM	High Tide	1.38	
11:31 AM	Low Tide	1.70	
7:19 PM	High Tide	-0.04	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 29, 2021									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)					GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 4, 5, 6		UA174	4:50am	5:31am	1, 4, 5, 6	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	5 via Guam		UA184/174	9:50pm	5:31am+1	5 via Guam	
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-GUAM				
UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	5		UA184	9:50pm	3:45am+1	5	
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	1, 3,		UA184	10:25pm	4:10am+1	1, 3	
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>									

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.									
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 9, 2021									
SAIPAN TO ROTA					1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY		1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri		1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat		1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable	
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun		1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable	
ROTA TO SAIPAN					1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable	
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY		1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri		1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat		1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun		1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	
ROTA TO GUAM					1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable	
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY		TINIAN TO SAIPAN				
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable		FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
GUAM TO ROTA					2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable	
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY		2102	8:30	8:45	Daily	
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable		2103	9:30	9:45	Daily	
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					2104	10:30	10:45	Daily	
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY		2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable	
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable		2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	
					2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable	
					2108	14:30	14:45	Daily	
					2109	15:30	15:45	Daily	
					2110	16:30	16:45	Daily	
					2111	17:30	17:45	Daily	
					2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable	

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 21 – 038

Opening Date: April 26, 2021 • Closing Date: May 7, 2021

POSITION TITLE:	Human Resources Generalist
DEPARTMENT:	COA/Human Resources
LOCATION:	Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
ANNUAL SALARY:	\$37,756.00 - \$50,970.00 per annum, Exempt
CONTRACT:	Contracted
POSITION(S):	One (1)

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (“CUC”) is seeking for a qualified Human Resources Generalist. Under the direct supervision of the Human Resources Manager or his/her designee the responsibilities will be as follows:

Duties:

- Gathers and analyzes pertinent employee information.
- Inputs data into system in a timely matter monitors and maintain information stored in data system and update data whenever it is needed.
- Generates all daily reports in a timely matter, i.e., daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, and annual reports to the immediate HR manager.
- Maintains and updates electronic and paper documents for the purpose of public information, trainings, meetings, case management and client information to the HR Manager.
- Responsible for keeping and organizing of filing system of all incoming and outgoing correspondences.
- Compiles and assist HR Manager in preparation and finalization of letters, memos and reports for each division.
- Prepares request for personnel actions for signature of approving authority.
- Assists and/or participates in the preparation of applications and other documents and forms.
- Provides technical, analysis, research assistance of computer activities, problems, and issues.
- Familiarize and be able to maintain electronic technology provided by the department such as printers, fax, scanners, etc.
- Must be able to troubleshoot certain issues pertaining to electronics. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.
- Perform other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:

Successful candidates for the position must have the following:

Education: Bachelor’s degree in Human Resources or directly related field and 4 years of general professional human resource-related experience; or, an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to successfully perform the essential duties of the job such as those listed above. **Knowledge of:** Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Human Resource principles and practices; Program administration principles; Customer service principles; Mathematical concepts; Research methods; Database and records management principles; Modern office technology. **Skill In:** Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Administering and monitoring programs, policies and processes; Coordinating the implementation of human resource services; Researching and analyzing program-related data and resource information; Providing customer service; Interpreting policies and providing relevant information and guidance; Prioritizing work in order to meet timesensitive program deadlines; Tracking and auditing data, forms, records and documentation; Preparing reports, correspondence, and program support materials; Updating and maintaining information systems and confidential records; Coordinating and assisting with projects; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing:

- Valid CNMI Driver’s License with appropriate class.



Physical Demands:

- Occasional lifting of objects, Subject to standing, walking, sitting, bending, reaching, kneeling, pushing and pulling.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 21 – 039

Opening Date: April 30, 2021 • Closing Date: May 13, 2021

POSITION TITLE:	Safety Compliance Technician
DEPARTMENT:	Tinian Administration
LOCATION:	Tinian, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
ANNUAL SALARY:	\$20,826.00 - \$28,115.00 per annum, Non - Exempt
CONTRACT:	Not Contracted
POSITION(S):	One (1)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Tinian Resident Manager or his/her designee.

Duties:

- Performs and assists with facility and site inspections to review and monitor compliance with safety and environmental regulations and standards; prepares and issues citations for corrective actions to address compliance violations.
- Responds to incidents and emergencies and assists with ensuring compliance with laws, rules and regulations; follows up to ensure issues are resolved and procedures are followed.
- Prepares incident and accident reports to document issues and corrective actions.
- Monitors equipment and supplies inventory; requests replacement stock to replenish inventory levels; ensures stock supply and preparedness for responding to oil spills or related incidents.
- Conducts or assists with a variety of informational workshops and/or orientations.
- Reviews project specifications and monitors field project work as needed.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:

Education: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS and based on assignment, up to 2 years of related work experience.

Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Investigative techniques; Mitigation procedures; Safe work practices and procedures; Customer service principles; Modern office technology.

Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Performing inspections to monitor safety and environmental compliance; Responding to emergency incidents to ensure corrective actions and proper procedures are followed; Monitoring equipment and supply inventory; Conducting and assisting with informational workshops and orientations; Reviewing project specifications and monitoring project work; Providing customer service; Preparing reports and related activity documentation; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.



Licensing:

- Valid CNMI Driver’s License with appropriate class.
- Hazmat and OSHA Certifications (Position may require)

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, from Monday through Friday (Except Legal Holidays), 7:30 am – 4:30 pm. Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 21 – 040

Opening Date: 04/27/2021 • Closing Date: 05/10/2021

POSITION TITLE:	Corporate Communications & Media Specialist
DEPARTMENT:	Administration Office
LOCATION:	Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
ANNUAL SALARY:	\$37,756.00 - \$45,122.00 per annum, Exempt
CONTRACT:	Contracted
POSITION(S):	One (1)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Executive Director or his/her designee. This individual will utilize their skills in writing, editing, social media and corporate communication to enhance and improve as well as advance CUC’s communication to the public and media. The ideal candidate will insist on the highest standards, understanding of the corporation’s values, dive deep into details, has a strong bias for action and sense of ownership, extract information to find commonalities between projects, and be able to multitask on various projects. This individual will keep their composure in fast-moving situations, be able to quickly get up to speed on complex issues, that involve the consumers, employees, and from time to time how matters relate from a government perspective. The role would suit a detail-orientated people person with a passion for storytelling and writing.

Duties:

There are three (3) areas of responsibilities this individual will have to be responsible for and they are as follows:

- **Corporate Communications**
 - Provides high-quality writing, formatting, and proofing support of a variety of content.
 - Prepares press releases and public advisories and collaborates closely with the PIO and the Executive Director prior to sharing the information with parties involved.
 - Coordinates meetings and corporate email communications relating to public information sharing and/or media publications to include social media.
 - Assists with the coordination and communication of internal and external events as needed.
 - Maintains and promotes communications by corporate standards, processes, and policies internally.
 - Monitors and tracks project deliverables and deadlines.
 - Responsible for compiling and formalizing reports for the corporation under the direction of the Executive Director of his/her designee.
- **Employee Relations Communication**
 - Craft and execute strategic internal communication plans for new programs, policies, procedures and changes.
 - Manage and support crisis communications.
 - Improve processes with new ideas and tools that are shared to all divisions within the Corporation.
- **Social Media Initiatives**
 - Grow and maintain our social presence through active social listening and consistent brand messaging.
 - Manage daily, weekly, and monthly social media plans in support of major organizational objectives.
 - Use data to develop a social media strategy, identify trends, provide insight, and execute recommendations to grow all of our social channels and engagements.
 - Work with HR to optimize social media for recruiting efforts. Plan content and ad campaigns to generate employment opportunity awareness.

Required Qualifications:

- Bachelor’s degree in Communications, Journalism, Public Relations, Digital Media, Marketing or related field.
- A minimum of 3+ years’ experience working in a corporate communications position.
- 2+ years of social media experience and a demonstrated track record of success.
- Must have excellent writing and editing skills with the ability to communicate clearly and effectively with internal and external clients.
- Excellent time-management and organizational skills with strong attention to detail.
- Possess a strong understanding of effective business communications techniques.
- Proficient in implementing internal communications technologies and strategies.
- Experience working within cross-functional teams.
- Advanced level computer aptitude in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Outlook.
- Advanced experience with Facebook and LinkedIn.
- Strong analytical, organizational, and prioritization skills, including general business processes and management.
- Demonstrated ability to be creative and think out-of-the-box to develop results-oriented, strategic plans.
- Proven professional verbal and written communication skills.
- Experience building robust communications programs and delivering results.
- Experience developing relevant content for a diverse, remote, and mobile workforce.
- Experience creating metrics to measure communication effectiveness, reach, and engagement.
- Comfortable dealing with ambiguity and able to form a cohesive and effective outcome from potentially incongruous facts (or lack thereof) and individual perspectives.

Preferred Qualifications (if Applicable):

- **Soft Skills:**
 - Proactive, self-motivated working style.
 - Must be able to work occasional extra hours
 - Must be able to work on/direct multiple projects at one time without direct supervision and be able to handle deadlines, confidential information and interruptions in the work process.
 - Must be able to multi-task, handle deadlines and confidential information.
 - Must be able to work well with various levels of employees, cross-functional team members and diverse cultures.

Physical Demands and Work Environment:

- Generally, an office/desk position using a computer and telephone.
- Occasionally required to lift and/or move up to 10 pounds and occasionally lift and/or move up to 25 pounds.

Minimum Requirements:

Education: Bachelor Degree Journalism, Public Administration or related field and 4 years of related public information experience. Proficiency in multiple languages (such as legally recognized language in the CNMI: English, Chamorro and Carolinian) is a plus.

Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth State and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Public relations principles and techniques; Communication methods; Media relations principles, Customer relations principles; Modern Office Technology.

Skills in: Interpreting and applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, codes, rules, regulations and standards; serving as a public information liaison and representative to the community; Planning, coordinating and disseminating public information; Determining information needs and promoting and educating the public; Preparing news releases, communications content, articles and collateral materials; Listening and responding to inquiries and effectively conveying information; Utilizing critical thinking and social perception to identify issues; Researching and preparing recommendations and responses; Designing and implementing programs and events; Measuring effectiveness of program delivery for future enhancements; Gathering and maintaining communication materials and information; utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing:

- Valid CNMI Driver’s License with appropriate class.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Business

Coco Restaurant: Back in business and open for lunch



BEA CABRERA

Coco Restaurant president Grace Seo and her son Hoy, welcomes the community everyday for lunch from 10:30am to 2pm.

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

After a year of closing its doors due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Saipan's favorite steakhouse Coco Restaurant located in Garapan is back in business and offers a wide array of steak and sides options for lunch. With the meat and prawns grilled in a brick grill and smoker while you wait, expect fresh, juicy, and scrumptious dishes served on sizzling plates from 10:30am to 2pm, Monday-Sunday.

"It was a long wait without any income... one year of being closed made me think of many things—should I close permanently, should I wait until the pandemic is over?

Because we incur expenses even without business. With all of those stressful thoughts, somehow my heart told me not to give up," said Coco president Grace Seo.

"I focused on what we can do and so we renovated the restaurant... We have always wanted to do that especially after the damage we experienced after Typhoon Soudelor and Super Typhoon Yutu. Now, the building is all concrete in and out, we made it spacious, made the ceiling higher, removed the glass dividers, and changed the paint color. When regular customers come in, they may be surprised with the new look but our food quality and taste is the same as the first day we opened in 1998," Seo added.

Seo opened Coco Restaurant in January 1998. Since then it was a popular name among locals and tourists. "While we were closed, regu-



BEA CABRERA

Scrumptious steak and prawn dishes available everyday at Coco Restaurant located in Garapan.

lar customers kept calling to ask when will I reopen. These comments encouraged me to be strong because these are the same people who knows about the quality of our food and they miss it. Finally we opened in April 25, 2021," she said.

"I was happy to see regular and new customers on our opening day last week. We were packed from reservations from 10:30am to 2pm. We are open only for lunch for

**For reservations, call
(670) 233-2626**

now and since we know it is a difficult time for everyone, we lowered our prices to cater to our local market," she added.

Seo admits that before the pandemic, the main base of Coco Restaurant were the tourist and dishes on the menu then were in the \$50, \$60, \$80 price range. "But for lunch, we have adjusted our prices and we are not serving full menu that we offered pre-pandemic. To make our dishes affordable, we cut down to serve the main local favorites—steaks and seafood set meals without compromising quality, taste, and customer service," Seo said.

"We know the situation of the locals and we cannot offer expensive lunch... Our current lunch menu consists of ribeye steak, tenderloin steak, mixed grilled that includes fish, chicken, and sausage, steak, and tiger prawns, to name a few," Seo added.

Seo, a longtime businesswoman, knows that for a business to thrive, customer service has to be maintained and quality of food should always be their priority. "I have been in the restaurant business since I was 27 years old and making customers happy is always the goal... I always train my service crew... learning how to serve customers better in the restaurant is a continuous training... We also have two private rooms available for private celebrations or company meetings—one can accommodate 30 pax the other 6 pax. We have a table in the middle of the restaurant that is sort in an enclosed area that can accommodate eight pax."

"For now, we are starting simple... open only for lunch and we will see from there... we are also looking forward to when the tourists come back in May... Coco (koko) in Japanese means 'here'—people remember it easily that is why many people and tourists know us... we are also here again to serve what people love about us and I invite everyone to come and try their old-time favorite steak dishes," she added.

Coco Restaurant is located across the Imperial Pacific Resort and Casino in Garapan. They are open from 10:30am to 2pm, Monday-Sunday. For reservations, call (670) 233-2626 or look them up on Facebook: "Coco Restaurant."

Nation

AFTER BIDEN'S 1ST 100 DAYS

'More perilous phase ahead'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Joe Biden's presidency is entering a new and more perilous phase where he is almost certain to face stiffer Republican opposition and also have difficulty keeping Democrats united as he pushes for \$4 trillion in additional spending on programs that have echoes of the New Deal and the Great Society.

Past the 100-day mark, with positive approval ratings and a far-reaching, nearly \$2 trillion COVID-19 relief bill to show for it, Biden is now facing far more uncertain terrain. The president is racing against the calendar, governing with the most slender of majorities on Capitol Hill while knowing that historically the party that holds the White House loses seats in midterm elections, which would cost Democrats control of Congress after the 2022 vote.

His next 100 days will feature his first foreign trip but will be dominated by his push to pass his expansive plans on infrastructure and children, families and education, which would expand the social safety net for children, increase taxes on the wealthy and fund projects that his critics say are infrastructure in name only.

Overall, his approach is less about stimulating the economy than stabilizing it over the long term with middle-class jobs, and proving that a democracy, even a bitterly divided one, remains capable of doing big things.

"In another era when our democracy was tested, Franklin Roosevelt reminded us: In America, we do our part," Biden said in his address to Congress on Wednesday night. "That's all I'm asking. That we all do our part. And if we do, then we will meet

the central challenge of the age by proving that democracy is durable and strong."

Biden has made personal overtures to Republicans in Congress, but the efforts were aimed at least as much at Republican voters, who have been far more supportive of his plans. A nod to bipartisanship is also important to reassure moderate Democrats such as Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia that the president is at least trying to win over Republicans, even if in the end he might push ahead without them.

His task may be easier given the hopeful signs of a strong economic recovery, with an annualized growth rate of 6.4% during the first three months of the year. With the relief bill passed, Biden's economic team is now able to focus on structural issues such as income inequality, systemic racism and shortfalls in public investment.

"These were ideas that were germinating pre-pandemic," said Heather Boushey, a member of the White House Council of Economic Advisers. "It feels like these are things that we've known we needed to do."

Several aides are now focused on distributing billions of dollars from the relief package for housing assistance, school upgrades and state and local government aid.

The administration also wants to measure the results of the spending to show Congress that its relief programs are succeeding.

One example: The expanded child tax credit is of critical importance because Biden has proposed extending the one-year increase through 2025 as part of his families plan.

"We know that implement-

ing the enhanced child tax credit right is critical not just to cutting child poverty this year but to showing it can be done well so that it builds support for extending it on and on," said Gene Sperling, named by Biden to oversee the relief programs.

With such expensive and wide-ranging programs, Biden has not shied away from comparisons between his own ambitious legislative agenda and those championed by a pair of his Democratic predecessors, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Lyndon B. Johnson. When the \$1.9 trillion COVID relief bill was passed in March, Biden gathered with Harris and a few senior staff members in the Roosevelt Room to watch the vote.

Biden recalled that it was in that room where, as vice president, he and President Barack Obama watched the final passage of the Affordable Care Act some 11 years earlier. But he remembered that room being packed with people, something impossible to do during the pandemic.

"If we didn't have COVID, we'd probably all be raising a glass together but instead this is what we are doing," Biden said, according to two White House officials who were not authorized to speak publicly about private moments.

The meaning was clear: Even in a moment of triumph, the pandemic was ever-present. But now, with virus cases falling and vaccinations spreading, Biden must guide the nation toward reopening from COVID-19 lockdowns.

He took a cautious step Tuesday by highlighting changing guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on outdoor mask-wearing.

2 men found with injuries after mall shooting near Seattle

SEATTLE (AP)—Two men suffered non-life-threatening injuries in a shooting at a shopping mall near Seattle on Saturday in what police described as apparently isolated violence.

The Tukwila Police Department wrote on Twitter that the shooting at the Westfield Southcenter mall appeared to be "an isolated incident between potentially known individuals." There was no immediate word of any arrest.

Harborview Medical Cen-

ter spokeswoman Susan Gregg identified the victims as two men, ages 32 and 27.

Shoppers fled the mall or sheltered in locked-down stores after the shots were fired. Wesley Eubanks, of Olympia, told The Associated Press in direct messages on Twitter that he was in the cosmetics store Lush, on the mall's first level, with his wife when he heard six or seven shots. The couple moved to the back of the store with a few other customers as employees directed them to a

certain area, he said.

Tukwila police wrote on Twitter at 12:15 p.m. that officers were at the mall south of Seattle and that people should avoid the area.

"Officers are clearing the mall," the department tweeted 10 minutes later. "If you are sheltered in place in a store, please stay where you are until contacted by officers."

Hundreds of people remained on lockdown inside the mall for as long as four hours as police cleared it.

Asia

OVER BIDEN SPEECH

NKorea warns US of 'very grave situation'

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea on Sunday warned the United States will face “a very grave situation” because President Joe Biden “made a big blunder” in his recent speech by calling the North a security threat and revealing his intent to maintain a hostile policy toward it.

Last week, Biden, in his first address to Congress, called North Korea and Iran’s nuclear programs “a serious threat to America’s security and world security,” and said he’ll work with allies to address those problems through diplomacy and stern deterrence.

“His statement clearly reflects his intent to keep enforcing the hostile policy toward the DPRK as it had been done by the U.S. for over half a century,” Kwon Jong Gun, a senior North Korean Foreign Ministry official, said in a statement. DPRK stands for the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, the North’s official name.

“It is certain that the U.S. chief executive made a big blunder in the light of the present-day viewpoint,” Kwon said. “Now that the keynote of the U.S. new DPRK policy has become clear, we will be compelled to press for corresponding measures, and with time the U.S. will find itself in

a very grave situation.”

Kwon still didn’t specify what steps North Korea would take, and his statement could be seen as an effort to apply pressure on the Biden administration as it’s shaping up its North Korea policy.

The White House said Friday administration officials had completed a review of U.S. policy toward North Korea, saying Biden plans to veer from the approaches of his two most recent predecessors as he tries to stop North Korea’s nuclear program. Press secretary Jen Psaki did not detail findings of the review, but suggested the administration would seek a middle ground between Donald Trump’s “grand bargain” and Barack Obama’s “strategic patience” approaches.

Kwon’s statement didn’t mention Psaki’s comments.

After performing a series of high-profile nuclear and missile tests in 2016-17, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un launched summit diplomacy with Trump on the future of his growing nuclear arsenal. But that diplomacy remains stalled for about two years over differences in how much sanctions relief North Korea could win in return for limited denuclearization steps.

In January, Kim threatened to enlarge his nuclear arsenal and build more high-tech

weapons targeting the U.S. mainland, saying the fate of bilateral ties would depend on whether it abandons its hostile policy.

Despite testing its short-range ballistic missile in March, the first launches in a year, North Korea has maintained a self-imposed moratorium on nuclear and long-range missile tests since it entered talks with Trump three years ago.

“If Pyongyang agrees to working-level talks, the starting point of negotiations would be a freeze of North Korean testing and development of nuclear capabilities and delivery systems,” Leif-Eric Easley, a professor at Ewha University in Seoul, said. “If, on the other hand, Kim shuns diplomacy and opts for provocative tests, Washington will likely expand sanctions enforcement and military exercises with allies.”

On Sunday, Kim’s powerful sister, Kim Yo Jong, slammed South Korea over recent anti-Pyongyang leaflets that were sent by balloons across the border by a group of defectors in the South. The group’s leader, Park Sang-hak, said Friday he sent 500,000 leaflets last week, in a defiance of a new South Korean law that criminalizes such action.

India launches effort to inoculate all adults against COVID

NEW DELHI (AP)—In hopes of taming a monstrous spike in COVID-19 infections, India opened vaccinations to all adults Saturday, launching a huge inoculation effort that was sure to tax the limits of the federal government, the country’s vaccine factories and the patience of its 1.4 billion people.

The world’s largest maker of vaccines was still short of critical supplies—the result of lagging manufacturing and raw material shortages that delayed the rollout in several states. And even in places where the shots were in stock, the country’s wide economic disparities made access to the vaccine inconsistent.

The country’s ambitious effort was also partly overshadowed Saturday by a fire in a COVID-19 ward in western India that killed 18 patients, and the death of 12 COVID-19 patients at a hospital in New Delhi after the facility ran out of oxygen for 80 minutes.

Only a fraction of India’s population will be able to afford the prices charged by private hospitals for the shot, ex-

perts said, meaning that states will be saddled with immunizing the 600 million Indian adults younger than 45, while the federal government gives shots to 300 million health care and front-line workers and people older than 45.

So far, government vaccines have been free, and private hospitals have been permitted to sell shots at a price capped at 250 rupees, or around \$3. That practice will now change: Prices for state governments and private hospitals will be determined by vaccine companies. Some states might not be able to provide vaccines for free since they are paying twice as much as the federal government for the same shot, and prices at private hospitals could rise.

Since state governments and private players compete for shots in the same marketplace, and states pay less for the doses, vaccine makers can reap more profit by selling to the private sector, said Chandrakant Lahariya, a health policy expert. That cost can then be passed on to people receiving the shots, increasing inequity.

“There is no logic that two different governments should be paying two prices,” he said.

Concerns that pricing issues could deepen inequities are only the most recent hitch in India’s sluggish immunization efforts. Less than 2% of the population has been fully immunized against COVID-19 and around 10% has received a single dose. Immunization rates have also fallen. The average number of shots per day dipped from over 3.6 million in early April to less than 2.5 million right now.

In the worst-hit state of Maharashtra, the health minister promised free vaccines for those ages 18 to 44, but he also acknowledged that the shortage of doses meant immunization would not start as planned on Saturday. States say the paucity of shots is one reason why immunizations have declined.

In a positive development, the country on Saturday received its first batch of Sputnik V vaccines, which it is importing from Russia. Moscow has signed a deal with an Indian pharmaceutical company to distribute 125 million doses.

World

ON IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL

Progress noted at diplomats’ talks

VIENNA (AP)—High-ranking diplomats from China, Germany, France, Russia and Britain made progress at talks Saturday focused on bringing the United States back into their landmark nuclear deal with Iran, but said they need more work and time to bring about a future agreement.

After the meeting, Russia’s top representative, Mikhail Ulyanov, tweeted that members of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA, “noted today the indisputable progress made at the Vienna talks on restoration of the nuclear deal.”

“The Joint Commission will reconvene at the end of the next week,” Ulyanov wrote. “In the meantime, experts will continue to draft elements of future agreement.”

“It’s too early to be excited, but we have reasons for cautious and growing optimism,” he added. “There is no deadline, but participants aim at successful completion of the talks in approximately 3 weeks.”

The three Western European countries involved in the talks struck a more restrained note.

“We have much work and little time left. Against that



Iran’s Governor to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Kazem Gharib Abadi leaves the ‘Grand Hotel Wien’ where closed-door nuclear talks take place in Vienna, Austria, Saturday, May 1, 2021.

background, we would have hoped for more progress this week,” the senior diplomats said talking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to be publicly named.

“We have yet to come to an understanding on the most critical points. Success is by no means guaranteed, but not impossible.”

In Washington, the U.S. State Department had no immediate comment on reports of progress, incremental or not, and said the U.S. assessment of the talks remained where it was on Thursday.

On that day, State Department spokesman Ned Price said there had been some movement but that an agreement was far from done or even guaranteed.

Abbas Araghchi, Iran’s deputy foreign minister, participated in the Vienna talks.

“I can say that now our discussions have reached a maturity, both in the disputed topics and in the sections that we are agreed on,” he told Iranian state TV. “Although we cannot yet fully predict when and how we will be able to reach an agreement, it is moving forward, although slowly.”

Over 800 migrants rescued at sea head to Italy

ROME (AP)—Two Italian ports faced an influx of hundreds of migrants on Saturday, as a charity ship sailed toward a Sicilian port with 236 people rescued in the Mediterranean from traffickers’ boats, while Italian coast guard and border police brought 532 others to a tiny island.

The maritime rescue group SOS Mediterranee said a ship it operates, Ocean Viking, pulled the migrants to safety four days ago from two rubber dinghies. Upon instructions from Italian authorities, the Ocean Viking was sailing to Augusta, Sicily, with its passengers, who it said included 119 unaccompanied minors.

SOS Mediterranee said some passengers told rescuers they were beaten by smugglers based in Libya and forced to embark on the unseaworthy dinghies despite high waves.

On Italy’s southern island of Lampedusa, which is closer to North Africa than to the Italian mainland, Mayor Salvatore Martello said migrants from four boats that needed

rescue stepped ashore overnight. They were brought to safety by Italian coast guard and customs police boats.

Separately, an Italian navy vessel rescued 49 migrants, Italian state TV reported.

Still in the central Mediterranean Sea on Saturday was another charity boat, Sea-Watch 4, which with 308 people aboard who had been rescued in four separate operations from trafficker-launched vessels, Sea-Watch said in a statement. The first rescue, of 44 people, took place on Thursday, it said.

Sea-Watch 4 has requested a port to disembark the migrants from both Italy and Malta.

“The fact that we, as a civil rescue ship, saved so many people from distress at sea in such a short time again demonstrates the fundamental rescue gap European states have created at the world’s most dangerous maritime border,” said Hannah Wallace Bowman, the head of mission for Sea-Watch 4.

Warmer weather in the spring often increases the

number of vessels launched toward Europe by Libya-based migrant traffickers.

Last month, SOS Mediterranean personnel and a merchant ship spotted several bodies from a shipwrecked dinghy, believed to have been carrying 130 migrants. People on the boat had appealed for help in the waters off Libya, but no coast guard vessels from Libya, Italy or Malta came to their aid, the group said. No survivors were found.

Humanitarian groups have been urging European Union nations to resume the deployment of military vessels on rescue patrols in the Mediterranean. After hundreds of thousands of rescued migrants, many of them ineligible for asylum, were brought to Italy by ships from the coast guard, navy, border police and other nations, large-scale rescue operations in the sea north of Libya were ended.

Italy has been equipping and training the Libyan coast guard to rescue migrants in their search-and-rescue area and to discourage traffickers.

Health & Wellness

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MAYO CLINIC Q AND A

DEAR MAYO CLINIC: Heart disease runs in my family, so I try to eat a mostly Mediterranean diet and get plenty of exercise. Lately, though, I feel stuck in a rut when it comes to my cardio workout. Do you have any advice for exciting exercises to improve my cardiovascular health?

ANSWER: Eating well and exercising are key elements of a heart-healthy lifestyle, but choosing the right type of exercise and logging enough time are essential, too. Cardiovascular training has many benefits, including chronic disease prevention and improved quality of life. It should be a staple of your weekly routine.

Cardiovascular exercises can be a challenge, and sometimes boring, for many people. But you can add variety to your cardiovascular workouts in numerous ways.

Walking is certainly easy on the joints, but a cardio workout doesn't have to be mile after mile of pounding the pavement or walking a treadmill. Switching up the type of exercise you do and the amount of time you spend doing it can dramatically improve your fitness.



Cardiovascular training has many benefits, including chronic disease prevention and improved quality of life.

ite machine. Many newer fitness machines are preprogrammed with a range of cardio workouts that are designed to vary the speed, grade or resistance. They also can simulate rolling hills or large mountains, and offer high-intensity intervals. Being able to alter the effort level not only helps keep you more involved, but also increases your fitness gains.

Instead of sticking to just one activity, consider adding interval training to your exercise regimen. Interval training is especially helpful if you're pressed for time, but you want a good cardiovascular workout. In as little as 20 minutes, you can put in the same amount of effort by working at a higher intensity than you normally would exert in 45 to 50 minutes at a moderate intensity.

Cross-training also can reduce your risk of injury. This approach challenges and strengthens your joints and muscles that aren't necessarily used during your normal routine.

Another possibility is to try multiple activities within the same workout. For example, try the "10-10-10" workout. This is where you start on one machine and perform one exercise for 10 minutes. Then you move to a second machine and perform another exercise for the next 10 minutes. And then you finish with a third machine and perform yet another exercise for the last 10 minutes. Changing machines and exercises helps the time pass quickly and makes your workout less repetitive.

Regardless of what new activity you try, don't forget to set small goals and work your way up. Don't force yourself to ride a bike for an hour the first time. It's important when starting any new exercise to ease into it so you are not injured.

There are many ways to add variety into your cardiovascular routine. When you try different activities, you'll find which workouts you like most and what works best for you. *(Mayo Clinic News Network/TNS)*

How to **add variety** to your **cardiovascular** routine

Getting 150 minutes of cardiovascular exercises each week is important, according to the American College of Sports Medicine. But it is important to remember that cardiovascular training is any activity that increases your heart rate for a set amount of time. So if you are a walker, consider short spurts of walking

mixed with jogging and sprinting.

There are many options to explore when it comes to cardio workouts. Consider what you can do in the comfort of your own home, outdoors or in the gym. Swimming, cross-country skiing, stair-climbing and jumping rope are examples of exercises that will increase your cardiovascular rate.

Think of activities you can do both indoors and outdoors. For instance, cycling is a great exercise to get your heart pumping while putting minimal impact on your joints. When the weather isn't cooperating, a bike ride outside may not work, but a spin class might.

Cycling has many benefits for your

body, too. You'll get an amazing cardio workout that challenges your legs and core muscles with minimal stress to your joints. If your joints cannot take the impact of walking or running, cycling can decrease pain while increasing aerobic capacity.

In the gym, you can try a new routine without leaving your favor-

When do I still need to wear a mask and when can I go without? A guide to staying safe

By RONG-GONG LIN II
and LUKE MONEY
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Despite some early mixed messages, health officials have repeatedly told Americans that wearing a face mask—both indoors and outdoors—is essential to curbing the spread of the coronavirus.

But as COVID-19 slows dramatically, that advice is changing.

People who are now fully vaccinated for COVID-19 can safely stop wearing masks in many outdoor settings, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Tuesday.

Masks are still recommended for everyone while in crowded outdoor settings, such as packed stadiums and concerts, the CDC director, Dr. Rochelle Walensky, said. But the sustained pace of vaccinations—with 37% of adults nationally fully vaccinated—followed by falling coronavirus case rates nationally meant it was time to relax guidance

for when to wear masks for fully vaccinated people, Walensky said, including in outdoor social gatherings such as shared meals.

Unvaccinated people should still wear masks, and keep at least six feet away from others. "We really do want people who are unvaccinated to limit the interaction with people," Walensky said.

The new announcement eases a mask standard introduced just last month. In March, the CDC said that vaccinated people should keep their masks on if meeting with unvaccinated people from more than one household.

Gov. Gavin Newsom said California would align with the CDC's new guidance, which he called "common sense." California's most recent mask order, last updated in November as the state's deadliest COVID-19 surge began and before any vaccines had been authorized, mandated that a mask generally be worn at all times when outside the

home, with exceptions, such as being outdoors and maintaining six feet of distance from other people.

Here are key points:

Fully vaccinated people no longer need masks in small outdoor gatherings

"Generally, for vaccinated people, outdoor activities without a mask are safe," Walensky said.

"If you are fully vaccinated and want to attend a small outdoor gathering with people who are vaccinated and unvaccinated—or dine at an outdoor restaurant with friends from multiple households—the science shows: If you're vaccinated, you can do so safely unmasked," Walensky said.

Asked about states that have mask requirements for people outdoors, Walensky said, "if people are vaccinated, we no longer feel that the vaccinated people require masks outdoors."

Masks should still be worn in crowded outdoor settings until more people are vaccinated

"We continue to recommend masking in crowded outdoor settings and venues, such as packed stadiums and concerts, where there is decreased ability to maintain physical distance and where many unvaccinated people may also be present. We will continue to recommend this until widespread vaccination is achieved," Walensky said.

Fully vaccinated people can do more things safely—if masked

Fully vaccinated people can now do a number of things safely—if they are masked, such as visiting a barber or hair salon; an uncrowded mall or museum; riding public transit with limited occupancy; going to a small, indoor gathering of fully vaccinated people and unvaccinated people from multiple households; going to an indoor movie theater; attending a full-capacity church service; singing in an indoor chorus;

participating in an indoor, high-intensity exercise class; and eating at an indoor restaurant or bar.

Those activities, however, are less safe for unvaccinated people, even if they are masked, according to the CDC.

Activities considered "least safe" for unvaccinated people, even while masked, include attending a crowded outdoor event, like a sports event or live performance; going to an indoor movie theater; attending a full-capacity church service; singing in an indoor chorus; eating at an indoor restaurant or bar; and participating in a high-intensity exercise class.

What it means to be 'fully vaccinated'

People are considered to be "fully vaccinated" if it has been two weeks since they have received their second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccinations, or if it has been two weeks since they have received their sole Johnson & Johnson dose.

Life & Style

Billboard Awards: 16 nods for Weeknd, 6 for Morgan Wallen

NEW YORK (AP)—The Weeknd was snubbed by the Grammys but he's the leading nominee at the 2021 Billboard Music Awards, where rappers Pop Smoke and Juice WRLD earned multiple posthumous nominations, including top artist, and disgraced country singer Morgan Wallen is a six-

time nominee.

The Weeknd, Juice WRLD and Pop Smoke—the third most-nominated act—are up for top artist along with Taylor Swift and Drake, the show's most decorated winner of all-time. The Billboard Awards will air live on May 23.

The Weeknd earned 16 nomi-

nations, including top male artist, top R&B artist, top Billboard 200 album for "After Hours" and top Hot 100 song for "Blinding Lights," the No. 1 song of last year. DaBaby—thanks to his own hit "Rockstar" and his guest appearance on Jack Harlow's "What's Poppin"—is second with 11 bids, and he will battle

himself in categories like top rap song, top streaming song and top collaboration.

Pop Smoke, who follows with 10 nominations, died last February at age 20 as his songs and mixtapes began to make a splash on the pop and rap charts. His official debut album, "Shoot for the Stars, Aim for the Moon," was released last

July and dominated the charts and streaming services, along with platinum-selling songs like "For the Night," "What You Know About Love" and "Dior," which earned him a Grammy nomination this year. His Billboard nominations include top new artist, top male artist, top rap artist and top Billboard 200 album.

Juice WRLD died in Dec. 2019 at age 21. His posthumous album, "Legends Never Die," was released a week after Pop Smoke's album and set several records on the Billboard charts, becoming the biggest posthumous debut in 23 years since Tupac and Notorious B.I.G. posthumously released albums in 1997.

Olympia Dukakis, Oscar-winning 'Moonstruck' star, dies at 89

MAPLEWOOD, N.J. (AP)—Olympia Dukakis, the veteran stage and screen actor whose flair for maternal roles helped her win an Oscar as Cher's mother in the romantic comedy "Moonstruck," has died. She was 89.

Dukakis died Saturday morning in her home in New York City, according to Allison Levy, her agent at Innovative Artists. A cause of death was not immediately released, but her family said in a statement that she had been in failing health for months.

Dukakis won her Oscar through a surprising chain

of circumstances, beginning with author Nora Ephron's recommendation that she play Meryl Streep's mother in the film version of Ephron's book "Heartburn." Dukakis got the role, but her scenes were cut from the film. To make it up to her, director Mike Nichols cast her in his hit play "Social Security." Director Norman Jewison saw her in that role and cast her in "Moonstruck."

Dukakis won the Oscar for best supporting actress and



Dukakis

Cher took home the trophy for best actress.

She referred to her 1988 win as "the year of the Dukakis" because it was also the year Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis, her cousin, was the Democratic Party's presidential nominee. At the ceremony, she held her Oscar high over her head and called out: "OK, Michael, let's go!"

In 1989, her Oscar statuette was stolen from Dukakis' New Jersey home.

'It is life-saving': Elliot Page opens up about surgery

NEW YORK (AP)—Actor Elliot Page is revealing how happier he feels after having top surgery and how important he believes it is to support health care for transgender people.

"I want people to know that not only has it been life-changing for me, I do believe it is life-saving and it's the case for so many people," the actor tells Oprah Winfrey on her new show for Apple TV+.

During the interview, Page teared up when Winfrey asked him what has brought him the most joy.

The Oscar-nominated star of

"Juno," "Inception" and "The Umbrella Academy" said it was the little things—like wearing a T-shirt, having a towel around his waist after a shower or touching his chest—that made him "feel comfortable in my body for probably the first time."

The full interview from "The Oprah Conversation" will be released Friday.

Page urged officials to support health care for transgender people and allow them access to sports. Some lawmakers are seeking to ban transgender youth from playing sports that match their gender identity.

"Children will die," Page said. "And it really is that simple."

He said the surgery has given him newfound energy "because it is such a freeing, freeing experience," adding: "This is incredibly new. I feel like I haven't gotten to be myself since I was 10 years old."

Page came out as transgender in December, an announcement that was widely greeted as a watershed moment for the trans community in Hollywood. He told Winfrey the decision was "imperative" in light of the violence against transgender youth.

Actor Esmé Bianco says Marilyn Manson repeatedly abused her

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Game of Thrones" actor Esmé Bianco sued Marilyn Manson on Friday, alleging sexual, physical and emotional abuse.

Manson's attorney called the allegations "provably false."

In the lawsuit filed in federal court in Los Angeles, Bianco says that Manson violated human trafficking law by bringing her to California from England under the false pretenses of roles in music videos and movies that never materialized.

The lawsuit alleges that in 2009, Manson, whose legal name is Brian Warner, flew Bianco to Los Angeles to shoot a video for the song, "I want to kill you like they do in the movies."

The lawsuit says that Bianco was expected to stay at Manson's home instead of the hotel where she had been booked, and there was no crew, only Manson himself



EVAN AGOSTINI/INVISION/AP

In this combination photo, actress Esmé Bianco appears at HBO's "Game of Thrones" final season premiere in New York on April 3, 2019, left, and musician Marilyn Manson appears at the Vanity Fair Oscar Party in Beverly Hills, Calif. on Feb. 9, 2020.

shooting with a phone.

Manson deprived Bianco of food and sleep, though gave her alcohol and drugs, locked her in a bedroom, whipped her, gave her electric shocks,

tried to force her to have sex with another woman and threatened to enter her room and rape her during the night, the lawsuit alleges. No video was ever released.

5 arrested in violent robbery of Lady Gaga's dogs

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The woman who returned Lady Gaga's stolen French bulldogs was among five people arrested in connection with the theft and shooting of the music superstar's dog walker, Los Angeles police said Thursday.

Detectives do not believe that the thieves initially

knew the dogs belonged to the pop star, the Los Angeles Police Department said in a statement. The motive for the Feb. 24 robbery, investigators believe, was the value of the French bulldogs—which can run into the thousands of dollars.

The dog walker, Ryan

Fischer, is recovering from a gunshot wound and has called the violence "a very close call with death" in social media posts. He was walking Lady Gaga's three dogs—named Asia, Koji and Gustav—in Hollywood just off the famed Sunset Boulevard when he was attacked.

Engagement to town 'bad guy' draws warnings

DEAR ABBY: I just got engaged, and I couldn't be happier. But my fiancé is referred to by the entire town as the "bad guy" because of his past. He's changed a lot, and I really want this to work out, but people come to me and say he's not marriage material, and they try to make us break up (one of his exes in particular).

He told me about his past, and I don't judge him for it because everyone has a past. He really wants to get married. How can we have a wedding without everyone knowing about it, especially our family?

MARRIAGE-BOUND IN WEST VIRGINIA

DEAR MARRIAGE-BOUND: If the whole town—including your family—thinks that marrying your fiancé is a bad idea, it may be time to hit the pause button. Marriage is something you want to do only once. The chances of it being successful will be better if you don't go rushing off to the altar.

Make your engagement long enough that your fiancé has time to prove to your parents and the community that he is a changed man. No one can "make" you break up, but it would be in your interest to listen to those exes (including the one in particular) and compare what each has to say. If the stories they each tell are similar, it may be your Mr. Right is the wrong man for you.

DEAR ABBY: My confident 17-year-old daughter had an uncomfortable experience today, and when she shared it, I didn't have answers for her. She was waiting outside a take-out place when she was approached by a grandfatherly man. He started chatting with her about her shoes, but proceeded to stare at her legs. He then loudly announced, "I may be 80 years old, but I can appreciate a great pair of legs!"

She understands that there are generational differences and that he may have intended it as a compliment, but the blatant staring made her feel objectified, uncomfortable and unsafe. It also made her question her (very appropriate for a teenager) outfit.

What should we have said to her? She was disgusted and upset, but my husband and I had no words of wisdom.

MOM WITHOUT ANSWERS

DEAR MOM: You should have thanked your daughter for telling you and validated her feelings about the incident because her instincts were 100% accurate. The individual who harassed her—and that is what it was—was out of line and extremely inappropriate.

DEAR ABBY: My husband of 30 years, whom I love dearly, has started singing all the time. I mean ALL THE TIME. If he's not on the phone or involved in a TV show or conversation

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



(and sometimes when he is), he's singing the same few songs over and over, and not well. I don't feel I have a right to ask him to stop. What should I do?

KARAOKE ALL DAY

DEAR KARAOKE: Tell your husband (sweetly) it's time to expand his repertoire because his playlist is getting repetitive. Good luck!

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Denver moves into 3rd in West with win over Clippers



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Denver is missing some key pieces to its backcourt. As long as the Nuggets have Nikola Jokic and Michael Porter Jr., they remain one of the top teams in the Western Conference.

Jokic had 30 points and 14 rebounds, Porter scored 25 points and Denver extended its winning streak to five games with a 110-104 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers on Saturday night to move into the third seed in the West.

"We are winning games. The offense hasn't been pretty, but it has been a top-five defense as of late," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said. "Jokic showed once again on the road against a good team why he is the front-runner for MVP. He puts the team on his back. That is what big players do."

Denver, which is a half-game in front of Los Angeles at 43-21, is 9-1 since Jamal Murray went down with a torn ACL in his left knee on April 12. Murray, who is rehabbing in LA, was at the game.

It is also missing guards Monte Morris and Will Barton—who average a combined 23 points—due to hamstring injuries.

"We wanted to test ourselves and see where we were at with some guys out. It was a big win, and we were definitely excited," said Porter, who is averaging 25.6 points since Murray's injury.

Jokic scored 18 points during the third quarter, including seven straight during a decisive run that would give the Nuggets the lead for the rest of the game.

Los Angeles trailed 52-47 at halftime but Reggie Jackson's step-back 3-pointer completed a 10-4 run at the start of the third quarter to put the Clippers back on top. On the ensuing trip down the floor, LA lost momentum when Paul George received a flagrant 1 foul with 8:54 remaining in the period for a shoulder block and push to Facundo Campazzo.

A pair of free throws by Campazzo and seven points by Jokic put Denver up 65-57 midway through the quarter. Denver would lead by as many as 11 in the period and went into the fourth up 83-73.

PJ Dozier's pullup jumper gave the Nuggets a 101-91 lead with 3:32 remaining in the game before the Clippers scored seven straight points to make it a one-possession game. After a Denver timeout, DeMarcus Cousins was called for a foul as Jokic was attempting a 3-pointer. Jokic made all three free throws to give the Nuggets breathing room.

Campazzo then added a



3-pointer from the corner to make it 107-98 with 1:08 remaining.

"Porter continues to develop his game and the whole bench has been stepping up and playing well. Everyone is bringing the energy that we need," Jokic said.

George led the Clippers with 20 points but shot 5 of 21 from the field. Rajon Rondo added a season-high 18 points and Kawhi Leonard, who returned to the lineup after missing the last five games due to right foot soreness, scored 16.

Cousins also scored 16 for LA (43-22), which has dropped its last three and had a seven-game home winning streak snapped.

"We couldn't follow the game plan as good as we needed to. Just a lot of small things that we have to continue being detailed about and understand what we are trying to do," Clippers coach Tyronn Lue said. "I thought Kawhi really eased into it. He didn't play with his normal pace of attacking and getting to the basket. Not playing in nine or 10 games though, that is to be expected."

The Clippers started off strong, making their first seven shots from the field to take an 18-7 lead. But Los Angeles' hot shooting didn't continue as it went 10 of 36 the remainder of the first half.

Denver narrowed the margin to one 28-27 at the end of the first quarter and then took its first lead with 10:37 remaining in the second quarter on JaMychal Green's 3-pointer. The game was tied at 36-all before the Nuggets scored eight straight points for their largest lead of the first half.

Jazz 106, Raptors 102

In Salt Lake City, Bojan Bog-

danovic scored 34 points—including six 3-pointers—to lead Utah over Toronto.

Jordan Clarkson added 15 points for the Jazz, Joe Ingles chipped in 15 points and nine assists while Rudy Gobert added 13 points and 16 rebounds. Utah won for just the second time in five games.

Fred Van Vleet had 30 points, seven assists and six rebounds to lead Toronto. Khem Birch added 17 points and 10 rebounds, OG Anunoby also scored 17 points and Pascal Siakam added 15. The Raptors lost their third straight game after scoring just 13 points in the fourth quarter.

Mavericks 125, Wizards 124

In Dallas, Dorian Finney-Smith hit a go-ahead 3-pointer in the final seconds, Luka Doncic ended his longest stretch without a triple-double since his rookie season and Dallas won a thriller over Washington.

Doncic finished with 31 points, 12 rebounds and a career-high 20 assists, the last to Finney-Smith in the right corner for the lead with 9.2 seconds remaining.

Dallas pulled even with the Los Angeles Lakers for the fifth seed in the Western Conference while improving to a season-high nine games over .500.

Russell Westbrook had 42 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists for the Wizards, who lost for just the third time in 15 games in a surge that has put them in position to make the play-in tournament in the Eastern Conference.

Hornets 107, Pistons 94

In Charlotte, N.C., LaMelo Ball returned from a 21-game

absence with 11 points, leading Charlotte over Detroit.

A leading candidate for Rookie of the Year, Ball had surgery to repair a broken wrist sustained on March 20. The point guard played 28 minutes and added eight rebounds and seven assists, including a nifty underhand pass from his own backcourt to Miles Bridges.

Terry Rozier led Charlotte with 29 points, including a 3-pointer to beat the shot clock to help stave off Detroit's final rally late in the fourth quarter.

Warriors 113, Rockets 87

In Houston, Stephen Curry bounced back from a rough first half with 23 of his 30 points in the third quarter, and the Golden State Warriors beat the Houston Rockets 113-87 on Saturday night.

Curry was just 2 for 12 in the first half, then didn't even need to play in the fourth quarter after the Warriors outscored the Rockets 39-12 to take an 88-67 lead.

Andrew Wiggins had 20 points for Golden State, and Mychal Mulder and Jordan Poole both added 17 off the bench.

Kevin Porter Jr. had 16 points and six assists for Houston. Kenyon Martin Jr. scored 16 points and Jae'Sean Tate had 14.

Magic 112, Grizzlies 111

In Orlando, Fla., Cole Anthony made a 3-pointer with 0.1 seconds remaining, giving him a career-best 26 points and Orlando a victory over Memphis.

Anthony, a rookie who hit a game-winning shot earlier in the season against Minnesota, drilled the high-arching shot over the outstretched arm of Memphis

guard Kyle Anderson.

Anthony added eight rebounds and six assists for the Magic, who ended their home losing streak at nine games.

Dillon Brooks scored 23 points, while Ja Morant added 22 points and seven assists. Anderson had 21 points but did not score in the fourth quarter.

Hawks 108, Bulls 97

In Atlanta, Trae Young scored 33 points, Clint Capela had 20 points and 11 rebounds and Atlanta snapped a three-game slide with a victory over undermanned Chicago.

Playing without their two best players — Zach LaVine and Nikola Vucevic — the Bulls took their first double-digit lead on Thaddeus Young's tip shot in the first minute of the third quarter.

But the Hawks, who began the night in fifth place in the Eastern Conference, went on a 13-0 run, and Chicago quickly called timeout at the 9:15 mark of the third after John Collins' 3 from the right wing put Atlanta up 67-65. The Hawks didn't trail again.

Pelicans 140, Timberwolves 136 (OT)

In Minneapolis, Zion Williamson scored seven of his 37 points in overtime and New Orleans came back to beat Minnesota.

Lonzo Ball had a career-high 33 points, tying a career best with eight 3-pointers, and grabbed 11 rebounds. Willy Hernangomez added 12 points and 12 rebounds. His follow shot with 21 seconds left completed New Orleans' comeback from down 10 in the fourth quarter to force overtime.

Anthony Edwards scored 29

Denver Nuggets forward Michael Porter Jr., left, shoots as Los Angeles Clippers forward Nicolas Batum defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game Saturday, May 1, 2021, in Los Angeles.

points for Minnesota, which had its four-game winning streak snapped. Karl-Anthony Towns had 28 points and 14 rebounds, and D'Angelo Russell finished with 17 points and 11 assists.

Heat 124, Cavaliers 107

In Cleveland, Kendrick Nunn scored 22 points and Duncan Robinson had 20, helping Miami move into a tie for sixth place in the Eastern Conference.

Trevor Ariza added 18 points and Bam Adebayo had 13 points, 10 rebounds and six assists for Miami, which is in a three-way battle with Atlanta and Boston for fifth, sixth and seventh in the conference.

Max Strus scored 17 points off the bench and Jimmy Butler added 15 points for Miami, which led by 23 in the fourth quarter. Robinson was 6 of 9 on 3-pointers, making him the fastest NBA player to reach 500 3s in 152 games.

Kevin Love, who did not attempt a shot in 22 minutes Friday against Washington, scored 16 points in the first half and tied his season high with 25 for Cleveland.

Pacers 152, Thunder 95

In Oklahoma City, Domantas Sabonis had a triple-double in the first half and the Indiana Pacers flirted with the most lopsided victory in NBA history before beating the Oklahoma City Thunder 152-95 on Saturday night.

Sabonis finished with 26 points, 19 rebounds and 14 assists, and the Pacers scored their most points in a game since joining the NBA in 1976.

They led by 67 points with 4:12 remaining before the Thunder scored the game's next 10 points. The NBA's largest victory margin remains 68, set by Cleveland against Miami in 1991.

Sabonis said he's never experienced anything like it.

"No, especially on the professional level," he said. "But we were just out there having fun. We didn't even realize the score most of the time. We were just running our plays, trying to be aggressive and good things were happening."

The Pacers' previous record was 150 points against Denver in 1982. Indiana shot 65.5% from the field — the highest percentage for an opponent in Thunder history.

Harvey wins 3rd start in row, Orioles beat sloppy A's, 8-4



OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—

Mystic's Matt

Harvey won his third straight start and the Baltimore Orioles took advantage of Oakland's sloppy play to score six runs in the third inning Saturday in an 8-4 win over the Athletics.

The Athletics made two errors and threw a pair of wild pitches to help Baltimore break loose. DJ Stewart added a two-run homer in the sixth for the Orioles.

"It was an ugly inning," Athletics manager Bob Melvin said. "It's not typical of how we play. Over the last few years, we've been a really good defensive team. We did not show it that inning."

Harvey (3-1) allowed two runs and four hits in 5 2/3 innings, walking three with one strikeout. It marked the first time since 2018 with Cincinnati that the former All-Star ace had won three starts in a row.

"That was a veteran performance, another gutsy pitching performance by him," Orioles manager Brandon Hyde said. "He's just so competitive and I love the way our guys feed off of that."

Added Harvey: "I was able to miss barrels for the most part and the guys behind me made plays. It's nice knowing that I can have those days that are not great, don't feel great, not throwing my best stuff, and be able to battle through it and be able to go 5 2/3 and keep runs off the board."

Oakland starter Jesús Luzardo (1-3) lasted just three innings, giving up six runs, although only three were earned. He gave up five hits and two walks and threw two wild pitches.

Mark Canha and Ramón Laureano homered for the A's. Seth Brown and Tony Kemp also drove in runs for Oakland, which has lost five of seven. Baltimore has won three in a row.

Austin Hays drove in the game's first two runs with a single in the third inning, and a throwing error by third baseman Matt Chapman on the play let another run score.

Trey Mancini and Ryan Mountcastle added RBIs in the inning, which began with Stewart reaching on Brown's error at first.

Canha's seventh-inning homer cut Baltimore's lead to 8-3. Laureano connected in the ninth.

The Orioles improved to 9-4 on the road this season, tied for the third-best mark in MLB. Conversely, Baltimore owns the worst home record in baseball at 4-10.

Astros 3, Rays 1

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Jose Urquidy scattered four hits over seven shutout innings and Houston made an early lead stand up.

Jose Altuve doubled on the first pitch of the game, leading to a three-run inning. Houston got three hits in the first inning and only one more the rest of the game.

Urquidy (2-2) walked one and struck out five. Ryan Pressley got his fifth save.

Tampa Bay starter Josh Fleming (1-3) gave up three runs on three hits and five walks in six innings.

Royals 11, Twins 3



AP
Baltimore Orioles Matt Harvey pitches against the Oakland Athletics during the first inning of a baseball game in Oakland, Calif., Saturday, May 1, 2021.

In Minneapolis, Andrew Benintendi hit two homers, Salvador Perez homered and drove in three runs, and Kansas City cruised past Minnesota.

Danny Duffy (4-1) continued his strong start to the season in helping the AL Central-leading Royals bounce back from Friday night's 9-1 loss. He allowed one run and two hits in seven innings, striking out seven and exiting with an 0.60 ERA.

Matt Shoemaker (1-3) gave up nine runs and eight hits in just 3 1/3 innings. Alex Kiriloff homered for the second straight day for the Twins and Nelson Cruz added his 425th career homer.

White Sox 7, Indians 3

In Chicago, Tim Anderson hit a grand slam, Leury García drove in three runs from the No. 9 spot in the lineup and Chicago beat Cleveland.

Lance Lynn (2-1) allowed three runs over five innings in his return from the injured list for the White Sox, who have won seven of nine.

Austin Hedges homered and Josh Naylor had two hits for the Indians, who have dropped eight of 13.

Lynn, sidelined since April 17 because of a right trapezius strain, allowed four hits and struck out two. He issued two walks, doubling his season total after four starts.

Anderson hit his second career slam off a wild Triston McKenzie (0-1) for a 5-0 lead in the second inning after García drew a bases-loaded walk.

Angels 10, Mariners 5

In Seattle, Jared Walsh homered in consecutive innings, and Los Angeles star Mike Trout hit his 28th long ball in Seattle.

Walsh followed Trout's 10th career first-inning homer in Seattle with a solo shot, then added a two-run drive in the second that made it 8-0. The Angels have won four of six.

Walsh's second multi-homer game marked the fourth time an Angels player connected in the first two innings.

Trout is the only Mariners opponent with more than 20 home runs in Seattle.

Anthony Rendon had a two-

run double in the five-run second and added a two-run homer in the fourth to complete the scoring for the Angels.

Griffin Canning (2-2) struck out nine and allowed three hits in 5 1/3 innings. Canning and four relievers combined for 16 strikeouts. The Mariners also left 17 runners on base. Ljay Newsome (1-1) gave up three homers and seven hits over two innings in his first start of the season. He pitched in place of Marco Gonzales, one of three starters on the injured list for the Mariners.

Mitch Haniger hit his seventh homer for Seattle.

Brewers 6, Dodgers 5, 11 innings

In Milwaukee, Travis Shaw homered and hit a game-winning single, and Milwaukee scored three runs in the 11th inning to beat scuffling Los Angeles.

The Dodgers, who have dropped three straight to the Brewers, also lost starter Dustin May to an apparent injury after just 27 pitches.

The game was tied at 2 after nine innings and 3-all after 10.

In the 11th, Drew Smith hit a two-run triple off Drew Rasmussen to give the Dodgers a 5-3 lead.

But the banged-up Brewers responded. They loaded the bases with no outs after Alex Vesia (0-1) started the inning with two walks. Mitch White gave up a sacrifice fly to Kolten Wong, an RBI single to Avisail Garcia and the game-ending hit to Shaw.

Angel Perdomo (1-0) got the win.

Nationals 7, Marlins 2

In Washington, Patrick Corbin ended his 10-game losing streak, pitching seven solid innings and leading Washington over Miami.

Josh Bell hit a bases-loaded double and drove in four runs, Yan Gomes had a two-run homer and Josh Harrison had three hits as Washington won its third in a row.

Corbin (1-3), who opened the season on the COVID-19 injured list, began the afternoon with a 10.47 ERA in four starts. He limited the

Marlins to two runs and four hits and posted his first win since last August.

Jesús Aguilar hit a solo home run for Miami, his sixth shot over his last eight games. Paul Campbell (0-2) made his first major league start after four relief appearances.

Cubs 3, Reds 2

In Cincinnati, Nick Hoerner hit a go-ahead single in the sixth inning and Chicago's bullpen shut down Cincinnati.

Hoerner drove in Javier Báez with one of his three hits, a two-out single off reliever Sean Doolittle to complete the Cubs' comeback from a 2-0 deficit.

Rex Brothers (1-0) struck out all three batters he faced in the sixth, the first three of eight strikeouts piled up by five Chicago relievers over five innings.

The first two batters reached against Craig Kimbrel in the ninth before he regrouped to get the next three for his fifth save.

Cincinnati left-hander Amir Garrett struck out Anthony Rizzo in the eighth and celebrated by punching himself in the chest several times, and he appeared to yell something in Rizzo's direction. Báez yelled at Garrett from the dugout and Garrett took a few steps in that direction, prompting both benches and bullpens to empty. No punches were thrown and there were no ejections.

Reds starter Luis Castillo (1-3) lasted 5 1/3 innings with the help of two assists by right fielder Nick Castellanos and center fielder Nick Senzel's diving catch.

Cardinals 12, Pirates 5

In Pittsburgh, Jack Flaherty pitched six solid innings to keep his record perfect and Paul DeJong hit a three-run homer in the first to send St. Louis over Pittsburgh.

Flaherty (5-0) struck out nine while winning his fifth straight start. He gave up three runs on six hits and two walks and improved to 7-1 in 10 career starts against the Pirates.

DeJong's drive off Trevor Cahill (1-3) capped a four-run first.

St. Louis won for the seventh time

in nine games. The Cardinals have also won six games in a row at Pittsburgh and 14 of their last 16 at PNC Park.

Tommy Edman, Paul Goldschmidt and Nolan Arenado each had three of the Cardinals' 15 hits. Arenado doubled, tripled and drove in three runs.

Colin Moran had three hits and two RBIs for Pittsburgh, which lost its third straight.

Padres 6, Giants 2

In San Diego, Blake Snell earned his first win for San Diego, backed by Manny Machado's early three-run homer against San Francisco.

Pinch-hitter Jurickson Profar connected on a solo homer in the eighth inning and Jake Cronenworth added a two-run single as the Padres pulled away.

Snell (1-0) gave up one earned run and five hits in five innings, striking out six. The 2018 AL Cy Young Award winner was acquired from Tampa Bay in an offseason trade.

Machado went deep against Anthony DeSclafani (2-1) in the first.

Rockies 14, Diamondbacks 6

In Phoenix, Dom Nunez launched a grand slam, Trevor Story had three hits that included a two-run homer and Colorado pounded out 18 hits in a win over Arizona.

It was a good start to May for the Rockies, who had the most losses in the National League during April with a 9-17 record. The top three hitters in Colorado's lineup all had good nights: Raimel Tapia had four singles and scored two runs, Story added a double to go with his homer and Ryan McMahon had two hits and four RBIs.

Diamondbacks starter Zac Gallen (1-1) needed 93 pitches to get through four innings. He gave up four earned runs and six hits while striking out seven.

By the end, Arizona turned to infielders Asdrúbal Cabrera and Wyatt Mathisen on the mound.

Austin Gomber (2-3) gave the Rockies a solid outing, allowing four runs — two earned — over six innings.

Blue Jays 6, Braves 5, 10 innings

In Dunedin, Fla., Randal Grichuk lined an RBI single in the 10th inning, George Springer hit his first two homers with the Blue Jays, and Toronto rallied to beat Atlanta.

Grichuk won it with two outs and the bases loaded when he hit an 0-1 pitch from Nate Jones (0-2) into center field.

Jordan Romano (2-1), the eighth Toronto pitcher on a bullpen day, worked a scoreless 10th inning.

Atlanta's Cristian Pache hit a grand slam for his first major league homer. Ronald Acuña Jr. connected for his ninth home run this season.

Springer tied it at 5 with his seventh-inning solo shot off Luke Jackson. He got the Blue Jays within 4-2 in the third on an opposite-field, two-run homer to right against Charlie Morton.

Springer, playing in his third game with Toronto, signed a \$150 million, six-year free-agent contract in the offseason and missed time with oblique and quadriceps injuries.

By **MARK RABAGO**
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Fresh from a coaching clinic with FIVB Level III certified coach and Oceania Sports Education master educator Mike Rabago, the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association is now looking for a coach that would lead the CNMI national team in the 2022 Pacific Mini Games that the CNMI will be hosting for the first time ever.

"The first step is to get a coach and we hope to have a few come out of this partnership with Mike. Concurrently, we are starting to host island tournaments, hopefully starting with a 4x4 co-ed grass tournament in May," said NMIVA president Somia Quan.

She added that the idea is just to get athletes out there again and playing volleyball.

"We're hoping to have various tournaments for the rest of the year, shooting for at least one NMIVA-affiliated tournament per month. Once we get the coaches, it will be up to

IN PREPARATIONS FOR MINI GAMES, MICRO GAMES

NMIVA: We need a coach



MARK RABAGO

Participants on a recent Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association clinic conducted by FIVB Level III certified coach and Oceania Sports Education master educator Mike Rabago pose for a group photo at the Agape Gymnasium along Middle Road.

them to determine how they want to select their teams and NMIVA will be there to provide the support—both equipment-wise and logistically for them to get it done but usually

beach volleyball teams are selected by hosting qualifying tournaments," she said.

As far as selecting players to form the national team for the beach volleyball competi-

tion of the 2022 Pacific Mini Games, Quan said unlike other sports beach volleyball picks players based on teams and not individual players.

"The way a beach volleyball

team is selected is a little different than your normal holding tryouts and cutting individuals and selecting individuals to form your official national team. Since a beach volleyball team requires a little more chemistry, it would be that the duo as a team is selected together, so we'd probably have a qualifying tournament," she said.

Quan also said that the selection process for indoor volleyball diverts more back to the norm. "For the indoor teams, we would host multiple tryout sessions and individuals would be selected based on a number of items includ-

ing skill, attendance, etc. but again up to the head coach to determine their team. Any athlete that would like to represent the CNMI in volleyball would have to meet the FIVB and [Northern Marianas Sports Association] eligibility requirements for the respective [Pacific Mini Games] or Micronesian Games."

Aside from beach volleyball, also in the calendar for the 2022 Pacific Mini Games are tennis, weightlifting, va'a, athletics, baseball, badminton, golf, and triathlon.

Any individuals interested in coaching beach volleyball for the Pacific Mini Games and Micronesian Games or indoor volleyball for Micronesian Games, please contact NMIVA at nmivolleyball@gmail.com.

LADY

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Meanwhile in the 400m, Beatrice Gross will face off with sister Windsor Gross, Esakova of OES, Allie Brasuell of SCS, Woo, and Jemelyn Jones.

In the long jump, Beatrice Gross will come head-to-head with Haberman, Windsor Gross, Esakova, fellow Lady Gecko Leilani Ruzsala, Woo,

Santiago, Teigita, Peng, Lily Lim of SCS, and Carlina Maras.

For the softball throw, Beatrice Gross will vie for the title against Teigita, Esakova, OES' Jayla Ayuyu, Leilani Ruzsala, Peng, Windsor Gross, Santiago, and Floreigh Lanoy of OES.

Also topping multiple categories was Windsor Gross who prevailed in the 800m and 1,500m championship qualifier.

Windsor Gross will face Beatrice Gross, Ruzsala, Woo, Spaeth, Haberman, Arriola, and Maras for the chance to become the school year's champion in the 9U girls 800m event.

Then in the 1,500m championship, Windsor Gross will battle Brausuell, Ruzsala, Arriola, Beatrice Gross, Peng, Michelle Im of SIS, and Maras.

The two-day championship event will take place on May

7 and May 8 at the Oleai Track and Field.

The May 7 championships will start at 3pm and is expected to conclude at around 6pm and will continue on to the next day, May 8, from 8am to around 11am.

The Public School System All Schools Track and Field Championship is being held in coordination with Northern Marianas Athletics.

4TH

From Page 20

Jedi' because I just believe this costume is the maturity of my 'nerdism.' I've loved Star Wars since I was 4, I memorized everything about the films, the books, the video games, I feel like this costume embodies how much I know about Star Wars," he said.

Doemiko and Miriam Flores finished first with a time of 13 minutes for the 1-mile course while both dressed as Princess Leia. To top it off, the pair took less than 24 hours to prepare for the event.

Miriam, who has never ran a race before, said the course was good but it was long. However, she said it wasn't hard. She said she ran and walked and she never stopped.

According to Doemiko, she and her family recently moved to Saipan and wanted a way to introduce her daughter to running while also picking the sport back up herself.

"We recently moved to Saipan and my daughters have never ran a race and I haven't ran in a while and we love Star Wars so we thought this would be a great way to kick start our running lifestyle here and in-



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Mother-and-daughter pair Doemiko and Miriam Flores, both dressed as Princess Leia, topped the 1-mile run of yesterday's May the 4th be With You, CNMI Race at the American Memorial Park.

roduce her to races," she said.

In terms of the race, she said she was focused on having fun with her daughter but it was a pleasant surprise that they came in first.

"I don't really know if we were leading from start to finish but our focus really was to have fun. For us it wasn't about running or winning, it's about having fun so when we

got to the end we were a bit surprised. We were pleasantly surprised," she said.

Saipan International School headmaster Ron Snyder teamed up with Dela Cruz and Mount Carmel School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero and not only did they work together to organize the event, they also ran as a team as a rebel team alliance.

"I am with Dr. G and Ed as the Rebel Alliance for the team event so I figured if I'm going to come as a rebel, I better come as a rebel and came as an X-wing fighter and all X-wing fighters need an R2-D2 unit and that's why my dog is R2-K9 this morning," he said.

Snyder said although he isn't as big of a fan of Star Wars as his teammates, he saw the first film that came out in 1977 and it also made a huge impact in his life and stuck with him through the years.

Aside from the actual race, the May the 4th be With You virtual race is still on until the rest of the week. To register, go to <https://www.raceentry.com/may-the-4th-be-with-you-cnmi/race-information?fbclid=IwAR0ZFEt4rNwu9oynxkzA-QnsuZOYP-TvV6TBdMaeQ-g3rEtDvBv3aRiouZWg>.

'SPIDER'

From Page 20

both players respecting the other's defense, neither had any success with close-in attempts.

With both using the same long-shot strategy, neither Schmidt nor Santos managed to pass up the other by more than 2 points all game. It came down to the wire when they ended up tied at 10-10, both a single basket away from victory. Schmidt took the first shot, but didn't sink it, and lost possession to Santos who managed to keep possession for four attempts at the win from outside the 3-point line. But Schmidt kept on the pressure, and never let Santos take a comfortable shot. When he finally got back the ball, Schmidt set himself with a few calming dribbles, and, without having to take a single step, sank the ball clean through the net all the way from the starting line, clinching the victory 12-10.

Schmidt took home a gilded belt, and smiles and cheers echoed around as attendants and competitors celebrated the Spider King's win in the first-ever Kings of the Game tournament.

This one-on-one tournament was scored with a modified point system, with regular shots and free throws being 1 point each, and shots from beyond the 3-point line being worth 2 points. Games go for 10 minutes, and are won either by the first player to reach 12, or by the leader when the clock runs out. If the 10-minute match is over without a clear winner, the game goes into overtime, and it becomes sudden death. Points in a team game are awarded as 1 for free throws, 2 for regular shots, and 3 for 3-pointers. "This point system is adopted from our 3-on-3 tournaments," said organizer Clint Albert.

In the leadup to the finals, the first game of the semifinals saw Mak Mintac take on Schmidt in

a real contrast of strategies. Mintac rushed in through Schmidt's defense to take more close shots, showing off his skill with aggressive layups. Schmidt, on the other hand, rarely went in for the close-in shots, and when he did, was deterred by Mintac's defense. Instead, he took long shots from outside the 3-point line, skillfully racking up a 12-7 victory that took him into the finals.

Santos and Richard McWilliams fought hard in the Final Four, with Santos having not much more success than Schmidt in taking layups, only his first point of the game came from inside the 3-point line. McWilliams kept up the pressure with his own plays driving toward the basket, but consistent long shots led Santos to lead 11-5. McWilliams fouled on the defense when Santos came in hard for the final point, and the resulting free throw ended the game 12-5, putting Santos in the finals and giving him a shot at the championship belt.

Albert said they plan to make the Kings of the Game a recurring event. "We'll have it again at the end of the year, or early next year." But before that, the MIBL has a number of other team tournaments to put on. "We have to have the MIBL Semi-Pro tournament finished," as well as a 3-on-3 tournament, before moving back to the 1-on-1, Albert stated.

It's certainly been difficult to host large gathering of players, coaches, and the cast of people necessary to put on a full sports league, due to restrictions from COVID-19. "That's one of the reasons we came up with the 1-on-1 tournament." Still, things are looking up, according to Albert. "Hopefully things are back to normal by the end of the year."

You can watch the final match, as well as the semifinals and the rest of the tournament, on the MIBL's YouTube channel at <https://youtu.be/h97t13hMRrk>.



Denver moves
into 3rd in West
with win over
Clippers

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NMIVA: We
need a coach

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

'May the 4th be with you'

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Ultimate Star Wars fan Edward Jr. Dela Cruz and the mother-and-daughter pair of Doemiko and Miriam Flores topped the May the 4th be With You, CNMI Race organized by Run Saipan in coordination with Northern Marianas Athletics yesterday morning at the American Memorial Park.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

All the top qualifiers of the 9U girls division for the All Schools Track and Field Championship were from Saipan International School.

Lady Geckos dominate 9U qualifiers

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The Saipan International School Lady Geckos conquered the elementary qualifiers of the 2021 Public School System All Schools Track and Field Championship that concluded last week.

All the top qualifiers of the 9U girls division were from SIS with Neveah Arriola, Beatrice Gross, and Windsor Gross landing No. 1 in their respective qualifying events.

In the 60m championship qualifiers, Arriola gained the first championship seat with a time of 10:48. The other qualifiers include SIS' Lucy Woo, Beatrice Gross,

Yummy Peng, Saipan Community School's Maria Haberman, and Brilliant Star School's Selina Santiago.

For the 9U 100m championship qualifier, Beatrice Gross came out on top with a time of 17:22. Joining her in the championships will be Oleai Elementary School's Alina Esakova, Arriola, Koblerville Elementary School's Jemelyn Jones, Woo, and Elena Teigita of OES.

Beatrice Gross also landed the No. 1 spot in the 200m, 400m, long jump, and softball throw championship qualifiers. Joining her for the 200m is Windsor Gross, BSS' Scarlet Burrell and LoVel Spaeth, and fellow Lady Geckos Woo and Arriola.

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KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

"Jedi Masters" Edward Dela Cruz and Galvin Deleon Guerrero flank "Stormtroopers" during yesterday's May the 4th be With You, CNMI Race at the American Memorial Park.

Coming in first in the 5-kilometer costume portion was Dela Cruz who crossed the finish line in just under 20 minutes dressed as Jedi Master Luke Skywalker from the new trilogy films.

"I am a very big Star Wars fans. I was a Star Wars fan

since the age of 4. My first movie was 'A New Hope.' The minute I saw Darth Vader walk in, with all the Stormtroopers, I was hooked.



Them Luke Skywalker turned on his light saber and my life was never the same ever again," he said. When asked about his cos-

tume, Dela Cruz said it embodies everything he knows about Star Wars.

"I chose him from the 'Last

See 4TH on Page 19

'Spider' tops first-ever Kings of the Game

By CODY RACE
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CORRESPONDENT



It's been a long wait for basketball fans since the Marianas International Basketball League held its first-ever Kings of the Game tournament last December at the Agape Gymnasium along Middle Road. The MIBL released their final Kings of the Game episode last week, showcasing an incredibly close game in a tournament full of one-on-one matches. The "Young Mamba" Coby Santos and Douglas "Spider" Schmidt, both players of the CNMI national team, made it to the top of the ladder in a 16-player lineup, besting a bevy of tough com-



petition. Their semifinals were hard fought and set the stage for the tactics they would use in the finals.

Santos and Schmidt duked it out in a tense back-and-forth game that kept attendants on the edge of their seats. The evenly matched pair took their time eyeing each other up from well outside the 3-point line. Rarely did either rush in for a driving shot, and with

See 'SPIDER' on Page 19

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A screen grab of Douglas "Spider" Schmidt after being awarded a wrestling- and boxing-style championship belt after winning first-ever Kings of the Game tournament last December at the Agape Gymnasium along Middle Road.